

Day of meetings leaves Prime Minister with sporting chance of staving off election

The Prime Minister was considered yesterday to have a sporting chance of victory in the vote of confidence in the Commons tomorrow, so staving off a general election. He had talks with leaders of the Liberals and the United Ulster Unionist

Unionists but the outcome was not disclosed. It seems that Mr Steel restated the terms for giving his party's support to the Government. However, neither side suggested that a further meeting was in prospect today.

Labour's conscience 'will not be sacrificed'

David Wood

Mr Callaghan still had a sporting chance winning Wednesday's vote of confidence in the Commons, and thereby reprieving Government from a general election, after his private discussions at the House yesterday with leaders of the Liberal Party and the United Ulster Unionist

It does not need to win positive votes in the 13 Liberals and the eight official UUs. If the group split, or solidify, it will be enough to save the government when the division bells ring 10pm tomorrow.

To adapt the words of Sir Winston Churchill when he became Prime Minister 1940, it could be said that the whole

Mr Callaghan's political and trade union life has been a preparation for the task he now has in saving his minority administration from a general election at time not of his own choosing. Nobody who has known Mr Callaghan in Westminster politics since 1945 doubts that he is one of the most accomplished party managers and survivors of his generation. Nobody knows except at second or third what precisely passed between Mr Callaghan and the leaders of the minority he saw last night: first, Mr James Molyneaux, leader of the UUUs and still disenchanted member of the Conservative Party's central council; and, secondly, Mr Steel, leader of the Liberals.

On his return to Westminster last night from the Streatham by-election campaign, Mr Steel spent an hour with Mr Callaghan in the Prime Minister's room discussing the conditions on which Liberal support could be thrown in the Government's cause.

Mr Steel had made his terms public in television broadcast on Sunday, and he appears to have respected them. It may be significant that neither side suggested that further meeting is in prospect for today.

The drift of the Prime Minister's confidences is clear though adjusted for any particular audience. He told the liaison committee of the TUC and the Labour Party in the morning, for example, in the presence of six Cabinet ministers and the chairman of the Parliamentary Labour Party, that "we are going to win, but the party's conscience will not be sacrificed in any discussions with minority groups".

That else could apparently phrased his thinking rather differently when he met Mr Steel and Mr Molyneaux. He might have mentioned his socialist conscience, or he was more intent on making the point that Mrs Thatcher would be a poor change for himself.

As he explained, the Prime Minister and the Government in on a minority in the House of Commons had to adjust to political realities, and therefore it could be taken for granted that he was prepared to help in the search for "an accommodation" with the smaller groups in the Commons whose votes are necessary to steer Mrs Thatcher and the Opposition. The Government, Mr Callaghan argues, as already in a clear minority, and had been obliged to trim its sails accordingly.

On other pages

Win or lose tomorrow night, Mr Healey is still likely to go ahead with the Budget statement next Tuesday 21.

The prospect of a Government defeat wiped more than £1,300m off share values on the Stock Exchanges yesterday. The *Financial Times* index closed 14.1 lower at 414.4.

Sterling made a shaky start yesterday and the Bank of England is thought to have given some support. However, it rallied later and closed at \$1.7177, a net gain of five points.

The TUC-Labour Party liaison committee has swung the full weight of the unions behind Mr Callaghan's determination to stay in power.

Mr Steel said he had no "shopping list" of demands to put to the Prime Minister regarding tomorrow's confidence vote.

Mr James Molyneaux, leader of the UUUC MPs, and Mr Enoch Powell, MP for Down, South, met Mr Callaghan and Mr Foot for an hour.

As the consultations went on at Westminster, party organizers began to prepare for a snap election.

It had dropped the proposal to legislate for worker-directors as recommended by the Bullock report; it had shelved the devolution Bill for inter-party talks; it had dropped the Bill for direct labour employed by councils; it had surrendered the ship-repairing section of the Bill to nationalize the aircraft and shipbuilding industries.

By implication, therefore, Mr Callaghan was able to argue that any Liberal or UUU who jibbed at socialism and socialist Bills had already been given his answer.

The Labour Government needed more time to fulfil its economic strategy. Would a general election that brought in Mrs Thatcher and her lieutenants offer a safer prospect?

All is all, the Liberal and UUU groups now have to calculate their own self-interest, including their electoral interest.

Mr Molyneaux and his seven UUU colleagues who take the group whip have to make up their minds whether they are likely to get a better deal from Mr Callaghan than from Mrs Thatcher, who represents the party that destroyed Scotland and Ulster self-government.

No group decisions were likely to be made conclusive until today, but there were signs at Westminster last night that Mr Callaghan had succeeded in sowing some doubts in Liberal and UUU minds.

It was notable, for instance, that when Mr Foot, Leader of the House and Labour's principal party manager, had a preliminary meeting with Mr Molyneaux yesterday morning, Mr Enoch Powell, who called at the two 1974 general elections for Labour support, was present. There is

no reason to think that Mr Powell, who helped to destroy Mr Heath as Conservative leader, feels any kind of kinship towards Mrs Thatcher.

After his meetings with Mr Steel and Mr Molyneaux, Mr Callaghan appears to have had meetings in private with some of his senior ministers, and there was a prospect of a Cabinet meeting at 10 Downing Street this evening.

Meanwhile, Labour's party managers have to consider their sick and their defectors. Mrs Littlecott, whose husband, the MP for Birmingham, Selly Oak, had a heart attack last week, declared firmly yesterday that she would not allow her husband to be brought to the House on a stretcher to be "nodded through" the division lobby in support of the Government.

There are five other Labour MPs who, without Conservative pairs, will have to be brought into Westminster precincts so that their votes may be recorded. Conservatives report a clean bill of health for all their rank and file.

The defectors, or possible defectors, are Mr James Sillars and Mr John Robertson, who left the Labour Party to form the Scottish Labour Party committed to devolution, and perhaps Mr Reg Prentice, the former Cabinet minister, who has been dropped as candidate at Newham, North East, and now intends to run as an independent Labour candidate in any general election.

There seems to be little reason for Mr Sillars and Mr Robertson, if they want a devolved Scottish assembly, to cast a vote against Labour, although they may use the pin-prick of abstention. Mr Prentice is also hesitating between a vote against Labour or abstention.

After his resounding defeat, Mr Prentice said on Independent Television News yesterday. He wanted to see the Government changing direction "so that the content of their programme and the style of government is appealing to the nation as a whole, trying to create an atmosphere of national unity in getting away from the mock battles of the past year or two".

Indirectly Mr Callaghan has been leaving no doubt that if the Government is defeated tomorrow night he will resign as Prime Minister and precipitate a general election.

A general election date would be limited by some commitments from which a United Kingdom Government can scarcely extricate itself. Mr Callaghan intends to be present at the EEC summit meeting in Rome on Friday, whatever happens tomorrow night. He will then be in the chair, because the United Kingdom now holds the presidency of the EEC.

Beyond that there are local government elections in England and Wales on May 5, and elections for district councils in Scotland on May 3.

Nationalist plans: The three Welsh nationalist MPs said in a joint statement yesterday that they would vote against the Government on the motion of confidence

(our Political Staff writes).

Bernard Levin, page 16

Government nervousness shows in hesitation over defence motion

A day when MPs' thoughts were elsewhere

y Hugh Noyes
Parliamentary Correspondent
Westminster

Yesterday was one of those occasions when the minds of MPs are on weightier matters than the business of the House. Indeed, what with all the healing and dealing going on behind the scenes in preparation for tomorrow's confidence motion, it was surprising that anyone turned up at all.

Mr Harold Walker, Minister of State for Employment, must have thought his colleagues new something that he did not and were already out on the usings. For most of his speech, opening the debate on Redundancy Rebates Bill, there was not a single Labour

MP on the benches behind the minister.

It was a bit ominous and Mr Barney Hayhoe, opening for the Tories, did his best to cheer up the minister over this lack of support by consoling him with the thought that Labour MPs were no doubt contemplating the miserable prospect of having to join the ever-lengthening dole queues outside before April was out. On such occasions a nervous, giggling atmosphere develops in the Commons, with MPs on all sides not quite certain which way to jump. Mrs Thatcher turned up briefly but remained silent as Mr Foot, with forced light-heartedness, announced the revised business for the week.

Dockers in sit-in over closure

y Tim Jones
Labour Reporter

Angry dockers protesting against the threatened closure of Preston docks yesterday staged a "sit-in" at their main headquarters in Transport House.

They were demanding a meeting with Mr Jack Jones, general secretary of the Transport and General Workers' Union, over a decision by the Conservative-controlled Preston council to close the docks, which last year lost £1.5m. Although fewer than two hundred men are employed on the quayside, dockers say closure would cost any jobs in related industries.

When they eventually met Mr Jones, after a five-hour occupation, he rejected their immediate demand for a national dock strike. "As they left the union's headquarters the dockers shouted: "Either Jack Jones pulls his finger out or we'll get him out. We are demanding a national stoppage."

Docks were left idle at almost 11,000 men took part in a one-day unofficial stoppage.

Mr Jones dismissed as "nonsense" suggestions that the dockers had prevented him from leaving the board room.

Timely help for Big Ben from NEB

The National Enterprise Board is proposing to take a 90 per cent stake in Thwaites and Reed, a company of clockmakers, which in addition to supplying clocks for town halls, churches and famous buildings, is at the moment repairing Big Ben. The company goes back to 1740, when a Mr Aynsworth of Thwaites made the Horse Guards Parade clock, which is still in use.

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Suspended sentence for Brendan Swords

Mr Brendan Swords, once described as the most wanted man in Britain, was given a suspended sentence in Dublin's Special Criminal Court. He had denied being a member of the Provisional IRA but he had pleaded guilty to giving the police a false name when questioned.

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Prison preferred

One of Pakistan's main Opposition leaders is refusing to leave jail in Lahore to discuss Mr Bhutto's offer of a dialogue on alleged ballot rigging until the Prime Minister lifts the state of emergency and frees all political prisoners.

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French President's strategy upset

The success of the Socialist-Communist alliance in the French municipal elections has dashed President Giscard d'Estaing's hopes of extending his power-base to the left. He appears to have no option but to adopt the policy of M Jacques Chirac, the Gaullist leader, confrontation of the left in preparation for next year's parliamentary elections.

French President's strategy upset

British Rail is to spend £7m in the next four years to remove blue asbestos lining material from the cabs of its locomotives. Guards' vans and drivers' compartments in multiple-unit trains will also be altered. Seven thousand older passenger coaches with asbestos concealed behind panels as an insulant are "far below danger levels".

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Asbestos will go

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Gap between pay and prices still widening

The gap between pay and prices continued to widen during January, with average earnings showing virtually no increase. Earnings have increased 5.5 per cent during the first six months of the present pay policy, with an increase of 0.1 per cent in January.

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Liberal manifesto

A renewal campaign for more democratic control over public services at present administered by central government agencies or non-elected bodies is urged in the Liberal Party's manifesto for the forthcoming metropolitan county council elections.

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Hospital security

A shortage of funds prevented the building of a £300,000 double security fence around one of the wings of the state hospital at Carrsair, Strathclyde, an inquiry at Lazark was told. The inquiry is into the escape last November that ended in three deaths.

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Human rights issue

Use of the birch in the Isle of Man is to be considered by the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg.

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On other pages

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Stock market: Political uncertainty left the FT Index 14.1 lower at 414.4, the worst day for five weeks

Financial Editor: Stock markets hate uncertainty; Inflation accounting: CCA sums up Turner & Newall; Rolls-Royce Motors prosper.

Business features: Christopher Williams on how industry is awaiting guidance on company tax levels under inflation accounting

The synchronization of pay settlements is discussed by Eric Wigman

Business Diary: Jack Jones, Hugh Scanlon and the prospect of a general election

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HOME NEWS

Unions put full weight against move by Mrs Thatcher to turn out the Government

By Paul Routledge
Labour Editor

Mrs Thatcher's parliamentary move to turn out the Labour Government met head-on opposition from the trade unions yesterday. The important TUC-labour Party liaison committee, acting only a few days before the official Commons vote of confidence, swung the full weight of the unions behind Mr Callaghan's determination to stay in power.

Mr Len Murray, general secretary of the TUC, said last night: "We want this present government to stay in office to do the job that it has begun."

The partners to the social contract, the Prime Minister, senior Cabinet members, leading figures in the Parliamentary Labour Party, and the party's national executive, and Mr Jack Jones, Mr Hugh Scanlon, and Mr David Bassett agreed on a statement of common purpose that once again raises the spectre of a trade union clash with the Government if Labour loses office.

The statement said: "The efforts of the Government, supported by all sections of the Labour movement in the past two years, to secure economic stability are now bringing clear results on the external front, and we look forward to a Budget which will have a major, positive impact on the domestic economy, both in reducing unemployment substantially and reinforcing the attack on inflation.

"We believe that the Government's full recognition of the need for the closest working relationship with trade unions has been a great service to the national economy and will remain of critical importance."

"We are convinced that the clear priorities set out in our 1976 statement, *The Next Three Years and the Problems of Priorities*, will continue to command wide support in the social, industrial, and economic spheres, in the area of developing fields of democratic par-

ticipation and in taking initiatives as part of the world community."

The liaison committee argued: "It is this broad approach that will continue to sustain a sense of direction both for the Government and Parliament, and for the nation. We believe that the people of Britain are looking to the Government for the completion of this task."

Mr Murray said he was certain the TUC General Council would endorse the statement unanimously. The council's round-table and the political manoeuvres at Westminster are expected to bulk large in its discussions.

There was a move at yesterday's meeting of the TUC finance and general purposes committee for a further union avowal of support for the Labour Government, but it was considered that the joint statement would be sufficient.

Signatories to the statement were Mr Jones, Mr Scanlon, Mr Bassett, Mr Murray, and Mr George Smith, from the TUC; the Prime Minister, Mr Foot; Mr Booth, Mr Healey, Mr Varley, Mr Mulley, Mr Benn, of the Cabinet; and Mr Cledwyn Hughes, Mr Norman Arthur, Mr Tom Bradley, and Mrs Castle from the parliamentary party and the executive.

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Labour likely to have least money to fight election

By George Clark
Political Correspondent

While Mr Callaghan and Mr Foot were wheeling and dealing with the minority parties at Westminster, the party organisers began to prepare for a snap election. For contingency planning they are assuming that the election could take place on April 28, although the parties might agree to let Parliament run for one or two weeks to complete essential agreed business.

Mr Daly said: "I see no indication from Mrs Thatcher or any of the other Conservative spokesmen that they would be likely to produce an economic policy with which the TUC could cooperate as they are doing with the Labour Government."

Scargill warning: The Labour Government is rushing headlong into self-destruction. Mr Tony Scargill said yesterday (the Press Association reported): "Unless there is a reversal of policy I can see no alternative but defeat at the next general election", he said in his presidential address to the annual meeting of the Yorkshire area council of the National Union of Mineworkers in Barnsley.

"I would ask before it is too late that the Government reverse its policies now and start to proceed along the lines laid down in the manifesto submitted in the 1974 general elections".

The past two years could only be described as disastrous for the union movement. The clarion call for 1977 should be "get rid of the social contract and return to free collective bargaining".

He added: "It is a tragedy and a crime that the trade union movement have stood idly by and allowed this state of affairs to take place. There is not one man in this union, nor in the Labour and trade union movement, who would doubt for one moment that had we a Conservative Administration in power today, and a million and a half people out of a job, the whole movement would have been on the march in a massive protest against government policies."

Business Diary, page 23

Borough's 15-year plan would put emphasis on mental-health needs

By Our Social Services Correspondent

An ambitious plan aimed at removing social services from the political arena and setting a framework for their development over the next 15 years will be presented for formal approval tonight at the meeting of the London borough of Hillingdon social services committee.

If passed, as is expected, the plan will result in much greater emphasis being placed on the needs of the mentally ill and mentally handicapped, at the expense of capital investment in old people's homes.

The plan says: "The major gains in the services which need to be provided lie in the mental health field. In crude terms, we have perhaps half the volume of services for the mentally handicapped that is needed, perhaps 25 per cent for the mentally ill, and 75 per cent for the elderly and physically handicapped."

The plan defines in broad detail terms how the social services should be developed locally up to 1991. It has been devised, on the basis of a series of research reports on individual services, precisely because the present financial outlook is bleak.

Hillingdon's view is that to

revise that they will have to be revised at least every other year, would provide a better basis from which to develop than simply waiting until the economic climate eases.

Mr Kenneth Gigg, chairman of social services, believes that a change of central or local government would affect the plan only by extending the timescale over which it could be implemented.

"This plan has been considered by an all-party working group and it is apolitical," he said. "Given the will and resources, it could be implemented in five years; but with further financial restraints on us it could take up to 15."

Although the plan is unusual in forecasting so far ahead when most social service departments are concentrating on saving essential services from cuts, it will nevertheless provide enough development to meet existing needs within reasonable guidelines.

Hillingdon has spent large sums, which have nevertheless dwindled both in relative and absolute terms in the past three years, since its social service department was established in 1971. But it faces large gaps in provision, particularly in domiciliary services for the elderly, former families and families with children generally and the

mentally ill and mentally handicapped.

There are three areas where the borough can claim to be ahead of other authorities. It has a highly developed special range of services for the blind and deaf; the number of residential social workers who are professionally qualified is much higher than the national average; and it has one of the best records in the country for adaptations to the homes of disabled people.

This year the borough expects to spend £145,000 on adapting 1,080 homes.

But mentally handicapped people are still being cared for in hospital conditions that, the plan says, would cause a public outcry if they were used for other people, although Mr Gigg is careful to point out that that is a result of the low priority given to such resources given to

Albion's domiciliary services for elderly people have been considerably cut back when the number of elderly people is growing fast.

In addition, the number of children in care has suddenly increased by a tenth for reasons that seem to be connected with the economic stresses of depression and unemployment.

Most wanted man gets a suspended sentence

From Our Correspondent
Dublin

A suspended sentence of two years' imprisonment was imposed by the Special Criminal Court in Dublin yesterday on Brendan Swords, aged 35, a company director, who was wanted man in England.

Mr Swords, a former town clerk of Carrickmacross, Co. Monaghan, had pleaded guilty to giving a false name to his Special Branch detective on February 1, but he said he did so in an effort to live as quietly as possible.

He told the court that he left England last year after a newspaper campaign had named him as the country's most wanted man. He had been in England since 1970, working as a bricklayer.

He explained that he now uses the names Michael Flanagan or Michael Maguire in an effort to live quietly. He was in fact, of agents who might want to settle a score and who were in search of "people across the water".

He told the judges that he had never been charged or convicted in England and that had not been engaged in political or subversive activities since returning to Ireland.

Mr Patrick McEntee, his counsel, said he had been the victim of an irresponsible newspaper campaign in England.

Mr Justice Marton, president of the court, said the decision to suspend the sentence should not be taken as a precedent. It was a serious crime, but there were special circumstances.

Mr Swords was acquitted of being a member of the IRA.

Mr Mason fails to win over Ulster coalition

From Christopher Walker
Belfast

Mr Mason, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, has denied any change of government heart on devolution for the province.

In a reply to Mr William Craig, the independent Ulster Unionist MP for Belfast, East, who had taken issue with Mr Mason's remark in the Commons last week that there would not be a return to a one-party state, the minister wrote:

"Let me at once reassure you that my phrase 'one-party state', which was, as you know, aimed off the cuff, was a short-hand term and did not represent any definite policy from declared government policy."

"The message I wanted to get across was that the Government had rejected the Convention report and that Parliament had made clear that any future system of devolved government in Northern Ireland must be one on which both the majority and minority sections of the community could agree.

I have frequently emphasized that the Government is not going to lay down hard and fast rules about how such an agreement is to be arrived at or what form it should take."

Mr Craig last night dismissed parts of the letter as wholly unsatisfactory and Mr Harry West, leader of the independent unionists' coalition, said that it offered them nothing new.

Girl's body found

The body of Charranjit Kaur Gill, aged 17, whose parents appeared at Wolverhampton Magistrates' Court last week charged with her murder has been found by a fisherman at Pitts Island, in the Severn, two miles upstream from Highley, Salop.

No 'shopping list' from Mr Steel

From Arthur Osman
Birmingham

Mr Steel, the Liberal Party leader, said yesterday before he left Birmingham for a meeting with the Prime Minister on tomorrow's vote of confidence: "There is no question of my going to see him complete with a shopping list of subjects in which we are interested. Our interest is mainly a stable and effective government to carry out the fight against inflation. It is really a question of a public shift in posture or not."

"We are different from the Ulster members in that there is no price he can offer us for our support on Wednesday evening. The Ulster members have said they are prepared to go to the highest bidder."

Mr Steel, who had been in Birmingham to support Mr Graham Gopsill, the Liberal candidate in the forthcoming Stechford by-election, said he believed that a general election after tomorrow's vote was more likely than not and he had made arrangements in his constituency.

Odds on Labour victory trimmed

The odds on a government victory tomorrow were trimmed by Ladbrokes, the bookmakers, last night. Its closing prices were 7-4 on for a government victory, 5-4 against its defeat, compared with 3-1 on and 6-4 against earlier.

Joe Coral offered odds of 3-1 on that Labour would win with the Tories 2-1 against.

The company said it expected an agreement would be made with the Liberals.

Ulstermen see no incentive in prospect of an election

By David Leigh
Political Staff

The Prime Minister and Mr Foot, leader of the Commons, held a four-hour meeting yesterday afternoon in the Prime Minister's room with the Ulster Unionist leaders, on whose support the survival of the Government tomorrow probably depends.

There was silence from Downing Street after the meeting with Mr James Molyneaux, parliamentary leader of the eight United Ulster Unionist Coalition MPs, and Mr Enoch Powell, renegade Conservative, MP for Down South, and Labour-inclined mentor of the Ulstermen. But there was a significant lack of rancour from those close to Mr Molyneaux. He feels no impulse to bring the Labour Government down, only to see it replaced

with a strong Tory one. There is also no incentive for the Ulstermen in the prospect of an election as such.

Contrary to the impression being given over the weekend, Mr Molyneaux did not see Mrs Thatcher yesterday, nor has he any apparent intention of doing so.

Despite the belligerence of some of the UUC MPs, there is a feeling among senior Ulstermen that they have been pitchforked into a situation they did not particularly want. The ground has not been prepared for coalition-style deals.

Mr Molyneaux and Mr Powell were told yesterday that no "deals" as such were available. The difficulty is more that of how far the two sides can be seen to shuffle towards each other, and how far Mr Molyneaux and Mr Powell can sell an accommodation to their own MPs.

MPs who intend to retire

The following MPs have announced that they will not be standing at the next general election:

Labour: Mr Strauss (Lambeth, Vauxhall), who is Father of the House; Mr Bleakly (South Shields); Mr Boydell (Bishop Auckland); Mr Wool (Blaydon); Mr Fernyhough (Jarrow); Sir Alan Beighton (Birkenhead); Mr M. J. Robertson (Paisley) and Mr Sidiars (Avrystre, South Wales).

Conservatives: Mr J. Murton (Poole), Chairman of Ways and Means and Deputy Speaker; Sir David Renfrew (Buntingfordshire); Mr James (Dorset, North); Mr Wood (Bridlington); Mr Cooke (Westmorland and Lonsdale); Mr John Gilmour (Edinburgh, South); Sir John Rodgers (Severnside); Mr Crowder (QC (Hillingdon, Ruislip-Norwood)); Sir Edward Brown (Bath); Sir Harwood Harrison (Bury); Sir George Sinclair (Dundee); Dr Henman (Fareham); Mr Cockcroft (Macclesfield); Mr D. D. Dawson (Skipton); Mr Awdry (Chippingham); Mr Godber (Grantham, West); Mr Lipton (Lambeth, Central); Mr Tuck (Watford) and

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HOME NEWS

Urban deprivation not felt by big cities only, councils say

By Christopher Warman
Local Government Correspondent

The Government's views on how to tackle the difficulties of inner-city areas are unbalanced and unrealistic, the Association of District Councils says in a memorandum to Mr Shore, Secretary of State for the Environment.

Responding to the government-sponsored inner-area studies, and to Mr Shore's recent pronouncements on the need for help for such areas, the association says the Government is in danger of overlooking the deprivation that exists in many urban and rural areas outside London and the big conurbations.

"To single out the inner urban areas of the main conurbations for further special treatment may well only distract overall priorities, and will not result in the best use of limited national resources," the memorandum adds.

The association, which has Bristol, Hull, Leicester, Nottingham and Southampton councils among its members, has carried out its own survey. It shows that such cities suffer from industrial decline, unemployment, poverty, and housing and social stress, difficulties such as we found in the central areas of the main conurbations.

It asks that before further aid for the metropolitan areas and London is considered there should be a "clear statement of the present spending priorities within those areas". It says that it is disturbed

by the implications of recent ministerial statements that the inner areas must get their "fair share" of resources and that because of economic limitations any extra resources will have to come from public spending funds, the amount of which has been fixed.

The fear is that the extra resources that have been going to London and the metropolitan areas during the few years are considerably less than a "fair share" and that the future will bring further transfers of revenue.

"The broad-brush approach of the past few years has been to push a greater proportion of grant into the metropolitan areas and to London without any assurance that the additional funds were being spent on the most needy parts of those areas", the memorandum says.

If the Government wanted to allocate extra resources for inner urban areas it should be done by specific grants for particular, small areas of special stress, whether in the main conurbations or not. The areas should be identified in accordance with agreed criteria.

The association also doubts the wisdom of abandoning the "well tested and successful strategy of planned dispersal" to new and expanding towns in favour of what it considers to be the less cost-effective policies of concentrating too much on providing new homes and industries in the inner urban areas.

It asks that before further aid for the metropolitan areas and London is considered there should be a "clear statement of the present spending priorities within those areas".

Students end sit-in

Essex University students decided yesterday to end their occupation in a protest against increased fees, after the proctor and registrar had travelled to London to seek a High Court repossessions order.

Mr Sellers recovers

Mr Peter Sellers, who was in Charing Cross Hospital, London yesterday after collapsing on a flight from Nice, expects to go home on Thursday. His illness was thought to be poisoning after eating oysters.

Man in the news: Mr Robert Armstrong

By Peter Hennessy

Mr Robert Armstrong, who will succeed Sir Arthur Peter-son as Permanent Under-Secretary of State at the Home Office on July 1, is in the classic mould of the nineteenth-century public servant produced by the great Civil Service of the 1870s.

Robert Lowe, the Liberal who did most to secure such reforms, would recognize him instantly as one of those disinterested, high-minded individuals, "true votaries" he called them, bred by the "freemasonry" of public school and ancient university.

Classical scholarship, imparted at the Dragon School, Eton and Christ Church, Oxford, is no longer a fashion or universally admired progression. But few who have worked with him, whether ministers or fellow "votaries", have ever doubted that Robert Armstrong is good, very good, at his job.

The son of a former Principal of the Royal Academy of Music, he plumped for a public service career while at school in the last years of the Second World War. Sir John Maus (now Lord Redcliffe-Maud), father of his father's and one of the gifted irregulars seconded from the universities to Whitehall for the duration, used to hold musical evenings, which the young Robert attended at his home in Windsor.

It was Sir John's hand that guided him to a career that has encompassed the Treasury, the Cabinet Office and 10 Downing Street.

Mr Armstrong's breakthrough came in 1957 when, as a young principal, he was appointed secretary to the Radcliffe committee on the working of the monetary system. He returned to the home finance division of the Treasury to build up a corpus of monetary statistics.

His most notable contribution to public administration to date has been to take the

private secretary's art to new levels of refinement. It has been a gilded sequence embracing Sir Wilfrid Eady, a Treasury second secretary, Mr Reginald Maudling, as Economic Secretary, Mr R. A. (now Lord Butler of Saffron Walden) as Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr Roy Jenkins in the same post, crowned by a five-year spell at No 10 as principal private secretary to Mr Heath and Sir Harold Wilson.

The top official post at the Home Office will be his first big test as a manager of men and institutions, as he readily admits. He is skilled at policy advice, and his abilities as a draftsman, a rapid dispatcher of business and as aide and confidant to great men are not in doubt.

Successive permanent secretaries have tried to open up the Home Office, for historical reasons regarded as the grimness of government departments, by reducing its isolation from the rest of Whitehall and helping to ease its traditional dilemma as the focus for two conflicting impulses in British life, the drive for reform and the desire for law and order. Mr Armstrong intends to take that process a step or two further.

Already at 49 a strong candidate for the Cabinet secretaryship when Sir John Hunt retires in two and a half years, Mr Armstrong's new post and the ones likely to come afford him the chance to leave an enduring mark on British public life.

Mr Armstrong has little to learn about the stately minutiae that has to be danced in the rarified reaches of Whitehall. His footwork during the Lady Falkender years at No 10, for example, can only be described in the words Churchill used of Arthur Balfour's transition from the Asquith to the Lloyd George Cabinet in 1916: He was "like a powerful and graceful cat walking delicately and unsold across a rather muddy street".



Mr Robert Armstrong, who will face his first big test as a manager of men and institutions at the Home Office.

Intermediate stage in child-care gets boost

By Our Social Services Correspondent

Confirmation that "intermediate treatment" can help to rehabilitate delinquents and prevent children at risk from appearing before the courts is provided today in a report from the National Children's Bureau.

It is the first report to assess the relevance of intermediate treatment, which provides help for children at a stage between leaving them at home under social work supervision and taking them into residential homes.

The idea of using intermediate treatment instead of residential care has received a boost from the Government, in a circular urging transfer of resources to it and in a London regional conference held privately last weekend to discuss future developments.

Mr Edmund, Secretary of State for Social Services, has endorsed the idea that it provides a better way of helping children in trouble than locking them away.

The bureau's report emphasizes that while there are difficulties, the method has proved successful in seven intermediate care treatment schemes sponsored by the Government and local authorities. The schemes were based in multiple-purpose which lasted from 1970 to 1975, family advice centres and concentrated on encouraging young people to use the services provided rather than accepting references from other agencies.

Mother and girl killed

A mother and her daughter aged eight were stabbed to death in their home in Dorrington, Herefordshire, yesterday. A man who had wrist injuries was taken to hospital.

Extra legs removed

A boy aged three months from Lincolnshire, who was born with four legs, had two legs and a pelvic bone removed at Sheffield Children's Hospital yesterday. He was said to be doing well.

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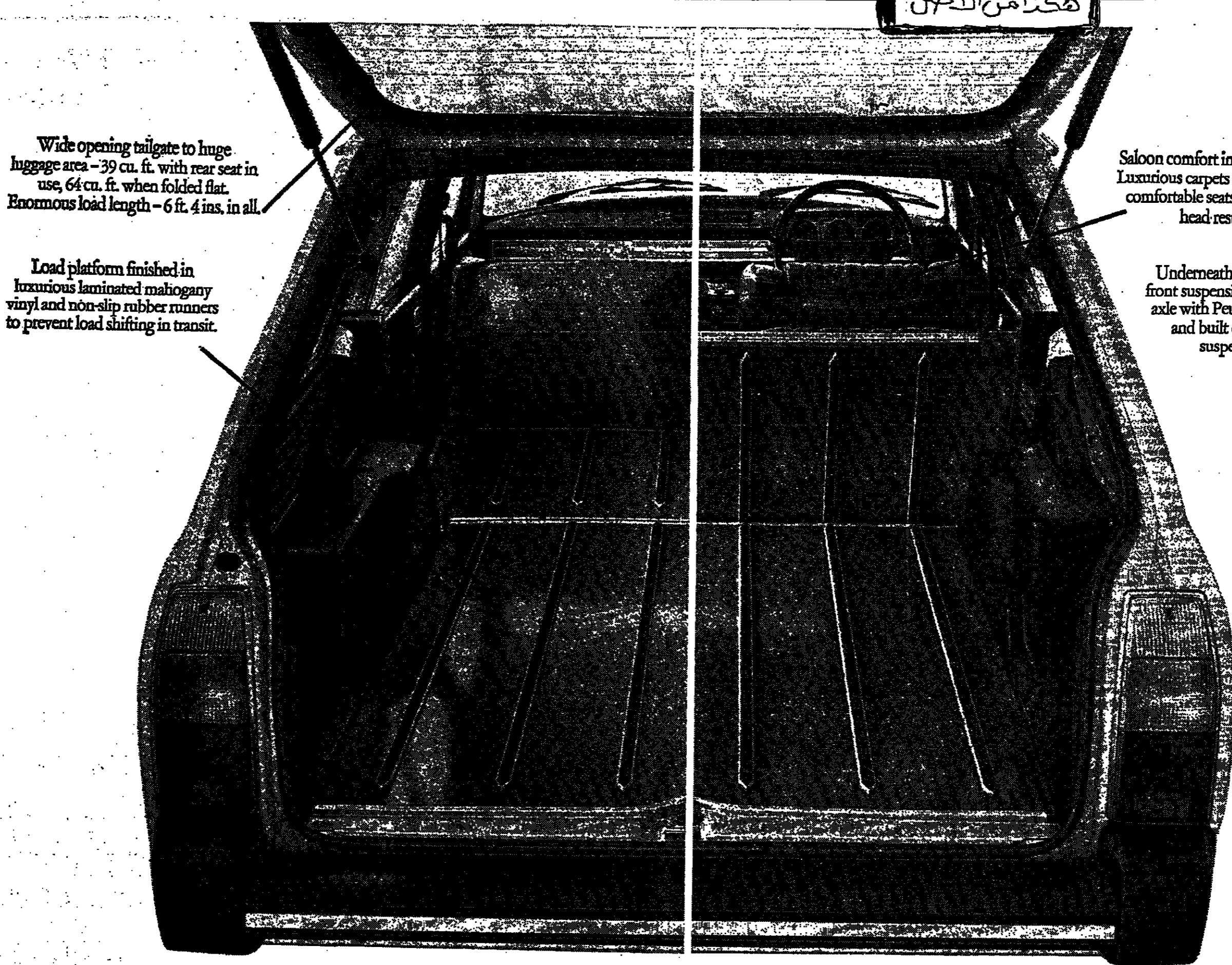
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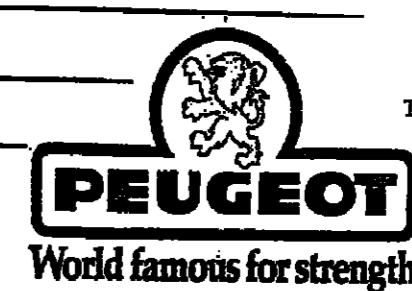
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HOME NEWS

Liberals seek more democratic control over local services

By John Charter

The Liberal Party's manifesto for the forthcoming metropolitan county council elections calls for a renewed campaign for democratic control over such matters as economic planning, health services, water supplies, gas and electricity, all of which are administered by central government agencies or non-elected bodies.

The manifesto says the reorganization of local government three years ago has proved an "absolute disaster and contrasts that the Liberal proposals for regional assemblies have been proved right."

"The metropolitan county councils are too remote to carry out certain community services and yet they are too small to deal with matters that require regional resources and power," it says.

The manifesto also draws attention to excessive "slanting" of plans between county and district councils. Planning should be more precise. Councils should be encouraged to designate land for specific purposes. It alleges that in too many metropolitan counties administration is "flabby" and that there is little true financial accountability.

The manifesto was released simultaneously yesterday in the six metropolitan counties

outside London, which were created during the local government reorganization and where the first elections since their formation by a "shadow post" in 1973, will take place on May 5.

In Greater Manchester, councillor Gordon Bayley, leader of the 12 Liberals on the council of 106 members, said that Liberal policies had saved and could continue to save tens of thousands of pounds of ratepayers' money. There was a complete absence of an effective financial reporting system on Greater Manchester Council.

The Liberal group's financial spokesman, Councillor Robert Tilley, said: "Local government administration is unbelievably inefficient. It cannot make decisions quickly enough and it cannot apply resources in the right places."

Mr Bayley said that unless he had a satisfactory explanation and promises of action on certain matters he was investigating he would have no hesitation in calling in the district auditor. "That is a simple ratepayers' prerogative and I shall use it if necessary."

The Liberals hope to field more than 50 candidates and Mr Bayley thought they should increase their holding on the council to at least 15.

Yard man questioned

A senior Scotland Yard officer denied at the Central Criminal Court yesterday that he or his men had leaked information to the press immediately before the arrest of detectives accused in the pornography bribery trial.

Assistant Commissioner Gilbert Kelland agreed that there had been a leak to the press but said it had not come from him or his officers. There had not been a deliberate attempt to gain maximum publicity for the arrests.

Mr Kelland, questioned by Mr Robin Simpson, for the defence of Det Chief Supt Alfred Moody, agreed that untrue.

Keep second class mail at 6½p, PO told

By Malcolm Brown

The Mail Users' Association, which represents the Post Office's largest commercial customers, yesterday urged the corporation not to put up the price of second-class mail.

In a memorandum sent to the Post Office and the Post Office Users' National Council, the association recommends that the proposed increase in first-class rates should be agreed to only on condition that the corporation can show that it has met several conditions, including its own targets for quality of service, for four consecutive weeks.

The Post Office is proposing that the basic first-class letter rate should be increased by 1p to 5p and that second-class letters should go up by 1p to 7p. At the same time the basic weight step would be cut from 60g to 50g.

The MUA emphasizes that it is not endorsing the rise in first-class rates without strings. "If posts could show that it intends to give value for money for the first-class service it would stand a very good chance of maintaining the existing first/second-class split," it says.

"The theoretical best achievement for first class is in the order of 96 per cent delivery by the day following posting. Once this objective has been regularly achieved the business should then be asked to explore ways of raising the objective. This condition could be imposed on all future tariff references."

There should be a discount for bulk first-class postings, the association adds.

Arguing that the second-class tariff should be held at its present level, the MUA says widening the differential between first and second-class would benefit not only the business and bulk user but also the general user, particularly the poor.



Wives protesting in London yesterday in support of the police pay claim

More room at last for Wales's overflowing library

Regional report

Trevor Fishlock Cardiff

National Museum and the National Eisteddfod, the seed of the Principality, has run out of space. It overflows with books and documents and emergency shelving fills every corridor, catwalk and corner. Administrators regard the post as desperate.

Now, however, the Government is coming to the rescue and is expected to announce soon that it is authorizing the spending of £15m on expansion of the building.

The extension will be in keeping with the library's materialist Edwardian style and will be started in a year's time, opening in 1980. It will enable the library to continue to fulfil the role its founders envisaged during the nineteenth-century movement to create national institutions for Wales.

Although that movement was strongest in Victorian times and led to the founding of the University of Wales, the heart of

Wales's literature of the Welsh language. The library has more than 2.5 million volumes and its store has been swelled by the arrival of more than 30,000 books every year.

As one of the six copyright libraries under the Act of 1911 (the others are the British Library, National Library of Scotland, Trinity College, Dublin, the Bodleian, Oxford, and University Library, Cambridge) the Welsh library receives copies of all books, government publications and many newspapers, and periodicals published in Britain.

Among the treasures are *The Black Book of Carmarthen*, which contains poetry, and *The Black Book of Chirk*, which sets out our Welsh laws. They both date from the early thirteenth century and are the earliest Welsh manuscripts known.

Thirty years later a library campaign began in Wales and more than 30 years after that the Government at last agreed to pay for a library at Aberystwyth. It started humbly in 1909 and the books and manuscripts left at the school were lodged in the British Museum.

There are 19 of the 22 Welsh books printed before 1600, the first book printed in Welsh and copies of the 1588 Welsh Bible, the book that was the most important single influence on

Woman attacks barristers' 'old boy network'

The Bar conducts its internal affairs on the basis of "an old boy network" which recognizes no duty to provide equal opportunities, a barrister said yesterday.

Miss Mary Colton, a member of the Bar since 1955, says in evidence she has submitted to the Royal Commission on Legal Services that in its dealing with clients and the courts the Bar's standards are very high. But in the management of its internal relationships "there are no standards at all".

Mr David Jenkins, the librarian, said: "With the library overflowing, the need for more room is urgent, if not desperate. The extension should have been started four years ago but was deferred because of cost. We are so hard-pressed now that something had to be done and we are most relieved that the spending has been authorized."

"It must be of public concern that entry is in effect restricted, competition is distorted, and a proper career structure is often denied, affecting recruitment

Plans to cut teacher-training places in Scotland meet wide condemnation

From Maria Huckerby
Edinburgh

The depth of feeling has been shown by Mr Harry Ewing, who despite being an Under-Secretary of State in the Scottish Office, has been vigorously opposing the Scottish Office proposal to close Callendar Park College, which is in his constituency of Stirlingshire.

Under the plan perhaps 400 lecturers would lose their jobs and two colleges, Callendar Park, at Falkirk, and Craiglockhart, at Ayr, would close. Craiglockhart, a small Roman Catholic college in Edinburgh, would be merged, probably with Dundee College, and Dunfermline College of Physical Education, which despite its name is based in Edinburgh, would also merge with Dundee. All but Craiglockhart are housed in modern, purpose-built premises.

Apart from the cost of duplicating specialist physical education facilities at Dundee, the Government has reason for wanting to transfer more teacher training to the city, where the large college of education is nowhere near full at present. Moreover, Dundee desperately needs extra capacity, which the mergers could bring, although staff living and working in Edinburgh would be understandably reluctant to leave such an attractive centre.

Nevertheless, opponents of the closure in Scotland claim that about 300,000 people have signed petitions against the cuts, perhaps the biggest mass petition since the "Save the Argylls" campaign in the 1960s.

Many Scottish Labour MPs have been active in the campaign (as well as many members of other parties) and

money could be saved by the cuts, and also of the lack of alternatives in what was supposed to be a consultative document from the Scottish Office.

Some opponents of the plan accept that there must be a reduction in the number of student teachers, but say the existing colleges should be retained, with smaller numbers of students. Other bodies have called for the spare teachers to be used to reduce class sizes in Scotland.

The Scottish Office has been strenuously resisting the attacks, pointing out that the teacher-pupil ratios in Scottish schools are already a good deal better than in Britain as a whole.

However, the Government has failed to satisfy the protesters, many of whom see the closures as an attack on the whole Scottish education system and as yet another example of a government in Westminster taking something away from the Scots.

There have also been angry comments about the speed with which the exercise of consultation has been taken place; the document was published in mid-January and Mr Milan, the Secretary of State for Scotland, is expected to announce his final decision next month.

Despite all the pressure, it looks increasingly likely that the Government will confirm the consultative document and go ahead with the closures.

SNP dispute over anti-English attitude

From a Staff Reporter
Edinburgh

The dispute among Scottish nationalists about whether their party should be anti-English as well as for an independent Scotland continues with a new attack against "chip-on-shoulder provincialism" by Professor Neil MacCormick, a leading moderate in the Scottish National Party.

He was responding to an article by Dr John Hulbert, prospective SNP candidate for Aberdeenshire, West, who thought it was not surprising that the academic staff in Scottish universities opposed devolution.

Professor MacCormick, who

is prospective SNP candidate for Edinburgh, North, said:

"What Scottish nationalism is in true and honourable form is not concerned with a carp and nasty attitude to English people or any 'outsiders' who have settled here and committed themselves to working and bringing up their families here."

He was responding to an article by Dr John Hulbert, prospective SNP candidate for Aberdeenshire, West, who thought it was not surprising that the academic staff in Scottish universities opposed devolution.

Professor MacCormick wrote:

"The day people get jobs in competitive circumstances because they are Scots rather

than because they merit an appointment is the day on which we devalue the currency."

He referred to the many gifted academics from England and elsewhere who worked in Scottish universities and said that some of them had been "deeply wounded by some recent mud-slinging in the public prints. It is against the fundamental decency of the SNP."

Dr Hulbert has replied that his figures demonstrated the intellectual colonization of Scotland. When Scotland was independent "our universities will discover once again that they are Scots, not British, and the situation will change of its own accord".

Surveyors want time saved at road inquiries

By Our Planning Reporter

Tighter rules to prevent waste of time and money at public inquiries into road schemes are suggested by the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors.

In evidence to the Department of the Environment and the Council on Tribunals, which are together considering the reform of inquiry procedures, the institution supports the view that Parliament should be given the opportunity to debate broad questions of transport policy.

There should be a maximum of 12 months between the close of public consultation on alternative routes and the publication of a draft fine order. Promoters of an important road scheme and objectors should be required to exchange expert evidence before the inquiry begins.

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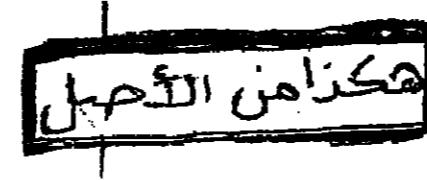


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PARLIAMENT, March 21, 1977

Mr Foot refuses to reveal defence debate motion

House of Commons

There were cheers when Mr Michael Foot, Lord President of the Council and Leader of the House of Commons, rose in the House of Commons to announce the revised business statement for the week. When Tory backbenchers shouted, "Remember Mrs Gandhi", a Labour backbencher shouted back: "We're leaders and not doing very well."

Mr Foot (Ebbw Vale, Lab) said that the first day of the two-day debate would be on Tuesday. On Wednesday there would be the debate on the Opposition concordance motion. (Applause.) The Labour amendments to the Home Security Bill (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill, Family Income Supplement Regulations and the European Community Definition of Treaties Order. There would also be the private Bill debate. The debate on the Home Security Bill concluded on Monday of next week.

Mr Francis Pym, Opposition spokesman on House of Commons affairs (Cambridgeshire, C) — "What motion will the debate on the defence White Paper take place?"

Mr Foot: "The debate will be open tomorrow and concluded next Monday and before then we will put down a motion in plenty of time for the Opposition to make up their minds by how much they

wish to increase public expenditure."

Mr Pym: "Is Mr Foot saying that the Government have not yet tabled a motion?"

Mr Foot: "What I am saying is that we have not yet tabled a motion. But I assure him that there will be plenty of time for him to decide by how much he wants to increase public expenditure."

Mr Pym: "Will he undertake that the motion will not be for the adjournment of the House but will be substantive motion?"

Mr Foot: "I have already indicated that there will be full opportunity, of which I hope the Opposition will avail themselves, to tell the country by how much they propose to increase public expenditure."

Mr Michael English (Nottingham, West, Lab) — "Will Mr Foot call the opportunity of calling the House to discuss the majority of the Liberal Security Bill (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill, Family Income Sup-

plement Regulations and the Euro-

pean Community Definition of

Treaties Order. There would also

be the private Bill debate. The debate on the Home Security Bill concluded on Monday of next week."

Mr Francis Pym, Opposition spokesman on House of Commons affairs (Cambridgeshire, C) — "What motion will the debate on the defence White Paper take place?"

Mr Foot: "The debate will be open tomorrow and concluded next Monday and before then we will put down a motion in plenty of time for the Opposition to make up their minds by how much they

wish to increase public expenditure."

Mr Foot: "Let us proceed to the debate on Wednesday and an hour will be satisfactory and we will proceed to the business next week."

Mr Wintred Ewing (Marrow and Nairn, Scot Nat) — "The Tory tears of censure are crocodile tears because it was the SNP who put in two tellers so that there was a vote."

Mr Foot: "I think he can appreciate the situation perfectly well. (Laughter.) There is a normal practice that when you have a two-day debate on a motion, you vote on the second day and there will be a motion down in plenty of time for MPs to put down an amendment if they wish to do so."

Mr David Price (Easington, C) — "The fact that we are dealing with the Order of the Day is that it is not possible to start a two-day debate tomorrow without having a motion in front of us. It is not unreasonable 24 hours before to know what the motion is."

Mr Foot: "It is intolerable to start a two-day debate tomorrow without having a motion in front of us. It is not unreasonable 24 hours before to know what the motion is."

Mr Foot: "We are dealing with the Order of the Day."

Mr Victor Goodwin (St Albans, C) — "Will Mr Foot make it clear that before we begin our debate we will know what motion we will be speaking on?"

Mr Foot: "It is simple. For the House to have debate on a motion we will indicate and reach a conclusion on Monday."

Mr Gow (Eastbourne, C) — "On what motion will tomorrow's debate take place? Does Mr Foot intend that the Government will put down a motion in regard to defence?"

Mr Foot: "Neither Mr Gow, nor the House, should worry. There will be the first day's debate in the time provided and in plenty of time for Monday, when the House will wish to reach a conclusion on the matter, there will be a motion on the Order Paper."

The Speaker — "We are dealing with business."

Mr Peter Rost (South-East Derbyshire, C) — "Will he assure us that he will put the motion on his memory by confirming that his side will definitely vote on this occasion?"

Mr Ian Evans (Aberdare, Lab) — "We appreciate the Opposition spokesman, realizing that we will

decide what motion should be debated next week."

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decide what motion should be debated next week."

Mr Ian Gilmour, Opposition spokesman on defence (Chesham and Amersham, C) — "Can he say that he is not putting down a motion for tomorrow?"

Mr Foot: "I think he can appreciate the situation perfectly well. (Laughter.) There is a normal practice that when you have a two-day debate on a motion, you vote on the second day and there will be a motion down in plenty of time for MPs to put down an amendment if they wish to do so."

Mr David Price (Easington, C) — "The fact that we are dealing with the Order of the Day is that it is not possible to start a two-day debate tomorrow without having a motion in front of us. It is not unreasonable 24 hours before to know what the motion is."

Mr Foot: "It is intolerable to start a two-day debate tomorrow without having a motion in front of us. It is not unreasonable 24 hours before to know what the motion is."

Mr Foot: "We are dealing with the Order of the Day."

Mr Victor Goodwin (St Albans, C) — "Will Mr Foot make it clear that before we begin our debate we will know what motion we will be speaking on?"

Mr Foot: "It is simple. For the House to have debate on a motion we will indicate and reach a conclusion on Monday."

Mr Gow (Eastbourne, C) — "On what motion will tomorrow's debate take place? Does Mr Foot intend that the Government will put down a motion in regard to defence?"

Mr Foot: "Neither Mr Gow, nor the House, should worry. There will be the first day's debate in the time provided and in plenty of time for Monday, when the House will wish to reach a conclusion on the matter, there will be a motion on the Order Paper."

The Speaker — "We are dealing with business."

Mr Peter Rost (South-East Derbyshire, C) — "Will he assure us that he will put the motion on his memory by confirming that his side will definitely vote on this occasion?"

Mr Ian Evans (Aberdare, Lab) — "We appreciate the Opposition spokesman, realizing that we will

Favourable Australian response on Concorde

Sir Ian Gilmour, Opposition spokesman on defence (Chesham and Amersham, C) — "Can he say that he is not putting down a motion for tomorrow?"

Mr Ian Gilmour (Woking, C) — "Perhaps you can explain how it is, if there is no motion on tomorrow's Order Paper, that the subject of debate can be confined to defence? Would it not be open to talk about other matters of equal importance if there is no formal motion?"

The Speaker — "I will rule on that when we see what the motion is. (Conservative laughter.)"

Mr Timothy Renton (Mid Sussex, C) — "Can we take it, Mr Speaker, that you have some cognizance of what is in this motion that is of equal importance if there is no formal motion?"

The Speaker — "What I said was clear. I do not know any more than the rest of the House."

Mr Goodwin — "Mr Foot has given the impression that there will not be a motion before the House tomorrow. All we are trying to find out is whether there will be. If there is not a motion before us today or tomorrow?"

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Herr Schmidt to head Bundestag appraisal of bugging controversy

in Dan van der Vat
on March 21

Herr Schmidt, the West German Chancellor, will take the chair at a special meeting of all parliamentary groups tomorrow to discuss the bugging controversy.

A Government spokesman announced this today, the circulation weekly *Quick* Monday disclosed details of other eavesdropping operations in a Bavarian prison, which same spokesman later confirmed were correct.

Quick's disclosure comes as the tapping of a telephone by an imprisoned terrorist for a conversation with a man associate in another jail years ago.

The Government spokesman said this operation fell within the responsibility of the Bavarian, not the federal, Government, although Bonn has been informed and approved the action because of a terrorist emergency at the time.

Although the bugging scandal is now hanging fire, with noised or threatened further revelations still to come, Herr Schmidt's Government remains ash in a rising sea of troubles.

The weekend provided nothing but bad news for Herr Schmidt and his colleagues. The leading Social Democrats suffered losses amounting to a hemorrhage in yesterday's municipal elections in the state of Hesse.

They lost power in five of the state's six largest cities, including Frankfurt, which had been in SPD hands since the end of the Second World War. The high tide reflected local discontent with the competent D hierarchy, which has lost steam in a series of local scandals that forced the resignation of the state Prime Minister last October. A municipal boundary decision angered the voters. But the council elections were the sole important test of

Some form of self-government wanted before elections

Catalonians united in quest for autonomy

From William Chislett

Barcelona, March 21

While nationally the Spanish political map becomes more and more confusing with the general election less than 100 days away, in Catalonia politics are overwhelmingly clear-cut.

There is one important consolidation for Herr Schmidt which may serve to ensure his survival in office until 1980. The Opposition Christian Democrats are so inept that they seem incapable of exploiting the Government's plight.

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in Spain be discussed at government level before the elections. This would establish the Catalan problem and those in the Basque country and Galicia on an official level. For him there is no disputing that Catalonia is a nation with its distinct language, culture and history.

When Señor Anton Canellas, a Catalan politician who is a Christian Democrats' representative in the Opposition's negotiating committee with the Government, hopefully assesses Señor Suárez, the Prime Minister, this week he will tell him that Catalonia wants some kind of self-government before the elections.

"If we go into the elections in Catalonia having achieved this, in the elections there will be an aggressive," he said in an interview. Otherwise most of the Catalan political parties right well decide to campaign much more vociferously on a pro-autonomy ticket and make an electoral issue.

Ideally, Catalonia would like to see a restoration of the state of 1932 which General Franco suppressed after the Civil War, he said. This gave Catalonia its autonomy and its own government—the Generalitat.

But Señor Canellas realises that the possibility of this happening is very slim. It would mean the return from exile in France of Señor Josep Tarradellas, the president of the Generalitat, to preside over the elections.

An acceptable formula would be for the Government to accept the spirit of the request and allow an organization made up of the political forces to be established before the elections without calling it the Generalitat.

Señor Canellas and Señor Jordi Pujol, head of Democratic Convergence and the representative for Catalonia as a whole in the opposition's committee, have already prepared a document along these lines to the Prime Minister. Señor Pujol resigned from the committee last week but will remain in it until his replacement is found.

For Señor Canellas it is very important that the problem of different "nationalities"

is different "nationalities".

£320,000 ransom frees Rome kidnap victim

Rome, March 21.—The son of a wealthy Rome builder, kidnapped two months ago, was set free yesterday in the countryside south of the capital after his family had paid a reported ransom of £320,000, according to police sources.

A doctor, said that Signor Stefano Scirocco, a student, was in good condition. He had been kidnapped in Rome on January 26. Three armed bandits grabbed him as he was chatting with his girl friend and several friends in front of a bar.

They hit him over the head with a pistol but, dragged him into their car and drove off after firing several shots.

Last month, he wrote to his father asking him to pay the ransom and saying that the kidnappers would otherwise kill him. Signor Scirocco was one of 18 kidnap victims in Italy so far this year. Nine remain in the hands of their abductors.

Right wing licks its wounds in France

From Charles Hargrove
Paris, March 21

More bad news came from the weekend congress of the "Juste" (Young Socialists in the SPD). They elected as their new chairman by a narrow majority Herr Klaus-Joachim Bremmer, an extreme leftist identified with the "Staatskap" (state monopoly capitalism) faction, which has previously commanded only minority support.

As SPD and Government spokesmen immediately conceded, this means a new and powerful left-wing threat to the Government and the party as a whole.

Although Bonn's nuclear energy programme is in ruins, the mass protest against it continues. It erupted in unprecedented viciousness on Saturday. The Government now faces the most serious wave of disorder since the hot summer of 1968.

So far Bonn has found no general civic protest movement on this and other issues. The movement threatens to become a new extra-parliamentary opposition. There are now thought to be no less than 50,000 action groups in West Germany, with a combined membership larger than that of all the political parties put together.

This is an entirely new phenomenon in German life, and any government faced with thousands of normally disciplined and orderly people taking to the streets on this scale would have reason to worry.

There is one important consolidation for Herr Schmidt which may serve to ensure his survival in office until 1980. The Opposition Christian Democrats are so inept that they seem incapable of exploiting the Government's plight.

They lost power in five of the state's six largest cities, including Frankfurt, which had been in SPD hands since the end of the Second World War.

The high tide reflected local discontent with the competent D hierarchy, which has lost steam in a series of local scandals that forced the resignation of the state Prime Minister last October. A municipal boundary decision angered the voters. But the council elections were the sole important test of

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M Chirac, the Gaullist leader, all smiles after his election as Mayor of Paris.

Italian unions angry at IMF loan conditions

From Peter Nichols
Rome, March 21

Signor Andreotti, the Prime Minister, began consultations today with political parties, extreme right, seeking support for his acceptance of the International Monetary Fund's conditions for the granting of standby credits of \$530m (£310m) for Italy.

The fate of the Government is uncertain, and the strains are beginning to tell. Signor Enrico Berlinguer, the Communist leader, was well enough today to prepare for his meeting with the Prime Minister after having been ill with food poisoning.

Signor Benito Zaccagnini, the secretary of the government Christian Democratic Party, was today ordered by his doctors to rest for a week and remained at his home in Ferrara.

The Prime Minister is thus facing by himself the embarrassment of his Communist semi-supporters at having to contemplate the conditions of the IMF and the anger of the trade unions, which called a general strike in the Rome area for Wednesday.

At the end of the week he is to attend a meeting of the EEC heads of government.

Before his illness, Signor Zaccagnini stated that the present arrangement with the Communists was the only strategy to maintain the country's institutional and democratic framework.

But according to other estimates, published in today's papers, the left got 51.5 per cent to the majority's 47 per cent in the provinces. In Paris, the left won 45 per cent, two points more than in the presidential, and the majority 55

9,000, which account for more than half of the voters, the majority got 55 per cent and the opposition 32.5.

In 21 towns of over 100,000 inhabitants with councils up for reelection, including Paris, Lyons, Lille, Marseilles, Montpellier, Rennes, Nantes and Le Mans, the opposition obtained 49.4 per cent of the votes cast, and the majority 49.3 per cent. In the 45 towns with a population of between 100,000 and 30,000, the opposition got 51 per cent of the vote, and the majority 46.6 according to the ministry.

In the 319 towns of 9,000 to 30,000 inhabitants, the majority got 49.7 for the majority, and 51.3 for the opposition, and in the municipalities of less than

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The unity and voting discipline of the left-wing advance is not reflected in the official statistics published today, but this is nothing unusual. These show that the voting rate was 77.6 per cent—slightly less than the 78.8 per cent in the first ballot the previous Sunday.

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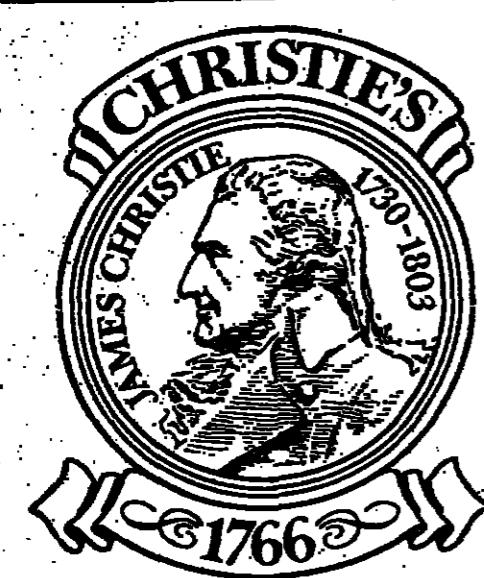
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Art Buyers' Guide APPEARS
5th APRIL



SOE

OVERSEAS

Americans fight ban on saccharin despite implied choice between overweight and cancer

From Patrick Brogan
Washington, March 21

The great saccharin war is going badly for the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). That body announced early this month that saccharin could cause cancer and therefore banned it under a 20-year-old law.

The food industry, the makers of saccharin and the millions of Americans who are addicted to it rose in wrath. It is possible that the law will prove unenforceable and then the ban on saccharin will go the way of laws meant to compel people to wear car safety belts.

A committee of the House of Representatives held hearings today at which a series of witnesses denounced the FDA. They questioned its scientific methods, its intelligence and its morality. They claimed that Americans had the constitutional right to eat saccharin if they wished and that attempts to prevent them from doing so were infringements on their liberties.

Dr Castro says no Cubans are in Zaire

Continued from page 1

the Soviet Union and its allies. However, there are believed to be a number of Cubans engaged in training guerrillas in camps in Tanzania and Mozambique. With large numbers of Cuban troops already engaged in Angola, Western analysts here believe that Cuba would be unwilling to undertake another costly military operation in southern Africa at this stage.

Although no official communiqué was issued at the end of his visit, Dr Castro's public remarks on the question of foreign involvement in the southern African conflict are in line with President Nyerere's thinking. The Tanzanian leader has frequently made it clear that he does not want southern Africa to be turned into an international battlefield. He has also given warning that if South African troops became engaged in Rhodesia the front line states would have to consider seeking outside support.

Asked about Cuban involvement in the Angolan conflict, Dr Castro said Cuban troops had only been committed when "an invasion from abroad, mainly South Africa, took place". The Angolans had the right to seek Cuban assistance in such circumstances, he said.

This explanation of events in Angola is widely accepted by many African countries, particularly Tanzania where Cuba's actions in support of the Popular Movement (MPLA) against the two pro-Western nationalist organizations, FNLA and Unita, is generally approved. The Western view, that Cuba was an invading force acting in the interests of the Soviet Union, is not given much credence here.

Dr Castro strongly denied press reports that Cuba was involved in the fighting in the Shaba province of Zaire. "There is not a single Cuban involved", he said. "We have nothing to do with it at all and we have not equipped or trained the forces which are fighting the ruling clique in Zaire."

The next stage on Dr Castro's African mystery tour turned out to be Beira, Mozambique, where he arrived later today. It was not known until several hours after his departure where his next destination was or where he would be going after Mozambique although it seemed likely he would visit Zambia on his way to Angola.

His reception in Lusaka is unlikely to be as warm as in Tanzania. President Kaunda is only too aware of the potential destabilizing influence of Cuba and the Soviet Union and at the time of the Angolan war a year ago he warned Zambians to beware of "a plundering tiger and its deadly cubs coming through the back door".

By including Zambia in his itinerary, Dr Castro will be visiting all of the front-line states except Botswana. Although primarily seen as a flag-waving exercise, the visiting of his own is significant, coming as it does when Mr Ian Smith is trying to gather support for an internal settlement in Rhodesia and while the Patriotic Front of Mr Joshua Nkomo and Mr Robert Mugabe is intent on stepping up the guerrilla war.

Britons in Greek prison visited by consul

From Mario Modiano
Athens, March 21

The growing British colony at Korydallos prison, near Piraeus, were visited today by Mr. John Forbes-Meyler, the British Consul, who went to make sure that the prisoners were being properly treated and had the required legal assistance.

First he saw the five aircraft spotters jailed on espionage charges on Friday after failing to persuade the judges that aircraft spotting was their hobby.

The Consul found three of them in the main prison complex in separate cells. The other two were in the juvenile section. One, Mr Christopher Taylor, was allowed to see his mother.

Experiments conducted in Canada show that if rats are fed on saccharin before they had ingested tobacco, they will eventually develop cancer. The law says that this is sufficient evidence that the substance causes cancer and the Government does nothing about it.

The Government is also considering a suggestion to legalize the use of marijuana, although there is considerable evidence that it can be harmful.

Diabetics are particularly incensed. They cannot eat sugar and rely on saccharin to make their food and drink palatable. Now it is to be taken away from them. Some have suggested that the solution might be to label sweet drinks and sweeteners the way cigarettes are labelled, with a health warning.

The law is categorical, however, and saccharin has been banned and will stay banned until the law is changed. The chairman of the House international and foreign trade committee said today that the law would not be changed precipitously, but the pressure is on to do just that.

Americans are addicted to sweet things and are furious at being faced with the choice of

Hunger striker wins better conditions

From Our Correspondent
Jerusalem, March 21

A Gaza prisoner who was one of the leaders of the six-week hunger strike in Ashkelon jail, which recently resumed, has won an order from Israel's High Court, requiring the Prisons Commissioner to show cause within 20 days why he should not be given humane conditions.

Muhammad Mahdi Baseso complained to the court in an affidavit that he was being held under intolerable conditions and that the prison authorities were deliberately endangering his life.

The affidavit asked the court to order the Prisons Commissioner to provide him with a clean place to sleep, a change of clothing, washing facilities, daily exercise, medical attention and the right to receive visits and newspapers.

It alleged that after he and others called the second hunger strike at Ashkelon on February 24 he was transferred to an unknown place, where he was imprisoned in a filthy hovel, from which he cannot see the light of day and is denied medical attention, clean clothes and washing facilities.

It accuses the Prisons Commissioner of trying to break him mentally and physically.

On February 25 resumed the hunger strike at Ashkelon on December 10 and involved nearly 400 Arabs.

About 215 resumed the hunger strike on February 24



Mr Brezhnev yesterday: "We will not tolerate interference from anyone."

Brezhnev Middle East peace plan

Continued from page 1

charges that human rights were violated and dissent suppressed in the Soviet Union. This was the first time a Russian leader has discussed the question of dissidents at such length in public.

The order, issued by Mr Justice Ben-Sion Sharashinsky on Friday, calls on the Prisons Commissioner to show cause why he should not comply with the demands of Mr. Baseso, who is serving a 15-year sentence as terrorist infiltrator.

His lawyer, Mrs Felicia Anger, claimed today that he was being kept in a small space without light for 24 hours a day and was still on hunger strike. He was in a weak condition. The International Red Cross had been asked to intercede.

Several other hunger strike leaders, it is understood, have been transferred to other jails and as a result the prison authorities claim that the strike at Ashkelon is over, but lawyers for some of the men say they are continuing to refuse food individually.

The first strike at Ashkelon began on December 10 and involved nearly 400 Arabs.

About 215 resumed the hunger strike on February 24

Mr Brezhnev set out a programme for developing relations with the United States, listing "four concrete aims" which Moscow believed could be attained.

These were a new Salt treaty; joint initiatives in banning and destroying the most lethal chemical weapons, and other measures to restrain the arms race; developing trade and economic ties; and joint action to achieve a settlement in the Middle East.

His detailed plan to bring an end to the Arab-Israeli dispute included an agreed schedule allowing for Israeli withdrawals from occupied Arab lands by stages "in the course of, say, several months".

Another apparently new Soviet proposal was the creation of demilitarized zones in the Middle East, with United Nations observer teams which could include Russian, American, British and French representatives.

Mr Brezhnev also suggested

that the Soviet Union, the United States and other countries supplying weapons to the Middle East could study ways of ending the arms race there — an echo of President Carter's recent call for restraint in foreign arms sales.

A final peace document or documents should outlaw the acquisition of territory by war and ensure the rights of all Middle East states to independence and security, as well as guaranteeing the Palestinians' rights to create their own state, the Soviet leader said.

As part of an eventual settlement, the Soviet plan foresees Israel's withdrawal from all territories it occupied in 1967. Appropriate borders between Israel and its Arab neighbours — Egypt, Jordan, Syria and Lebanon — should be clearly defined and declared "finally established and inviolable".

The state of war would end with the completion of the Israeli withdrawals. — Reuter

The Prince of Wales also gave the Prince a necklace made of

Politician prefers jail to Bhutto talks

From Our Correspondent
Rawalpindi, March 21

Air Marshal Asghar Khan, one of Pakistan's jailed Opposition leaders, is adopting a stiffer attitude on the question of dialogue with the Government. Today he refused to leave his prison cell in Lahore although told by the prison superintendent that he was being released so that he could attend a meeting of the nine-party Pakistan National Alliance to discuss the Prime Minister's latest offer of talks on alleged malpractices in the elections on March 7.

The retired air marshal brushed aside the idea of holding talks with Mr Bhutto saying it was "outrageous" for the alliance to consider any such move. He would not leave his prison cell until the Government announced on the radio the lifting of the emergency, which was reinforced six years ago, and the release of all political prisoners and detainees in the country.

Both these demands figure for the first time as a precondition to talks with the Government about the elections which the Opposition claims were rigged. Several other jailed leaders of the Pakistan National Alliance, which mounted a campaign of civil disobedience after the polls, have been freed. They are expected to meet in Lahore tomorrow to consider Mr

Bhutto's third successive offer to the Opposition to abandon its agitation on the streets and sit down for serious talks on specific issues relating to the elections. Mufti Mahmud, the president of the alliance, had told the Prime Minister that his offer could only be discussed if alliance leaders were freed.

While the alliance seems to be divided on the question of accepting Mr Bhutto's approach, the defeat of Mrs Gandhi in the Indian election has emboldened a faction in the Opposition which believes that the Indian new

trial. Two districts of Karachi remain under curfew. Troops are on patrol with machine guns fixed to vehicles. The curfew was imposed on Saturday evening after rioting but the reduction today of the period for shopping and other domestic chores from four hours to two hours in the west district of Karachi indicates that the situation is far from normal.

According to unofficial reports, six people were killed for violating curfew restrictions yesterday. More deaths were reported today.

In Hyderabad, 120 miles from Karachi, 17 people were reported killed in a clash yesterday between civil armed forces and demonstrators. About 100 were injured.

Ashanti chiefs hold durbar for the Prince of Wales

Kumasi, March 21.—The Prince of Wales today attended a grand durbar held in his honour by the chiefs and people of Ashanti in central Ghana.

Asewehene (King) Osei Tutu Opoku Ware II told the Prince that the chiefs and people of Ghana cherished their many years of happy association with Britain. He presented the Prince with a number of gifts, including a shield with a carved sword and a gun laid across, which he said symbolized a warrior.

The Prince, who arrived in Ghana on Thursday for an eight-day official visit, is expected to fly to Bolgatanga in northern Ghana, tomorrow. — Reuter

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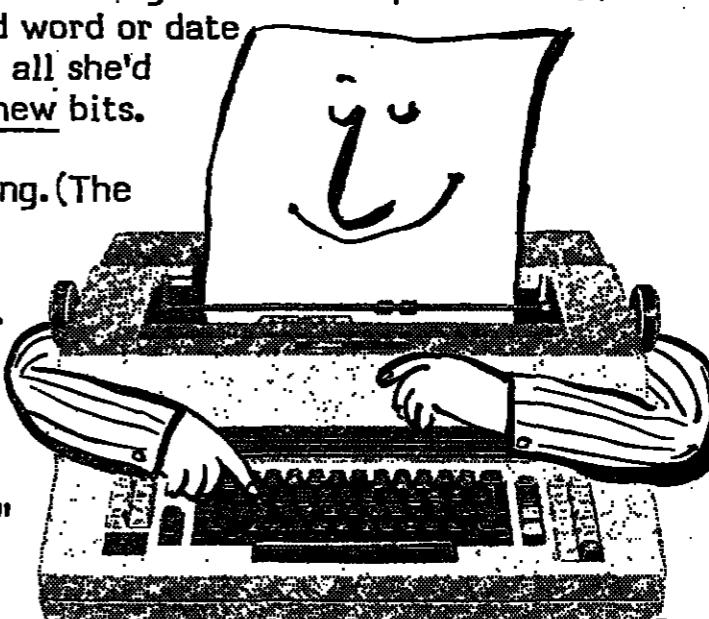
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Greek protest at move to abolish siesta

Athens, March 21.—More than half the shops in Greece stayed closed today in a 24-hour protest strike by shopkeepers and employees against the abolition of the siesta.

The decision to abolish the three-hour midday break and have all shops and firms working from 9 am to 5.30 pm was taken by the Government last month in an effort to cut oil imports. The measure was introduced for a trial period until May 15.

Shopkeepers fear that it would harm business and employees say that it would upset their living habits. It would also cost more to eat lunch in a restaurant than at home where they return during the break. — Reuter

Britons in Greek prison visited by consul

From Mario Modiano
Athens, March 21

The growing British colony at Korydallos prison, near Piraeus, were visited today by Mr. John Forbes-Meyler, the British Consul, who went to make sure that the prisoners were being properly treated and had the required legal assistance.

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sell its

OVERSEAS



Without Fear, world record breaking stallion, is introduced to the Queen at a stud northeast of Adelaide yesterday. It will sire a foal to be given her as Australia's silver jubilee gift.

Rhodesian rebel MPs on visit to South Africa to seek support

From Michael Knipe
Salisbury, March 21

The Rhodesian Government has been angered by the visit to South Africa of a delegation from the group of 12 rebel Rhodesian Front MPs who are apparently seeking support from the Republic's ruling National Party.

Government sources here have accused the rebels of breaking an agreement reached last week not to widen the split before an emergency Rhodesian Front congress resolves the dispute next month. In fact, the declared agreement was not to make any public statements before the congress.

The rebel delegation is believed to be seeking meetings with National Party leaders who are sympathetic to its plan for a geographic division of Rhodesia between the whites and the two African tribes. Such a solution would be similar to South Africa's Bantustan segregation, but the rebels prefer to liken it—with little explanation—to the Swiss canton system. Mr Ian Smith's Prime Minister, has ruled out any hope of a segregated solution being acceptable internationally.

According to Government sources, this is the second visit by rebel Rhodesian Front members to South Africa in the past few months. Late last

year a group is said to have conferred with a South African Cabinet minister.

After the first meeting, Mr Smith was apparently forced to send two senior ministers to Rhodesia to meet with Mr Vorster, this unofficial rebel contact. The South African Prime Minister, according to the sources, was equally annoyed by the rebels' visit. When they returned to Salisbury the two Cabinet ministers are said to have corrected statements about the South African Government's attitude to the Rhodesian crisis made by the rebel elements at a meeting of the Rhodesian Front parliamentary caucus.

The latest rebel delegation is understood to consist of four MPs led by Dr Colin Barlow, the group's spokesman, and to include Mr Edward Surtion-Pryce, a former deputy minister and an ardent advocate of a Swiss canton-style solution.

The 12 rebels have refused to resign their parliamentary seats or to resign from the party, and they appear determined to challenge Mr Smith's leadership at the forthcoming congress. A meeting between the Prime Minister and the 12 last week was described by the rebels as being "totally abortive".

The rebellion began over the Government's modification of the Land Tenure Act, whereby

Amin query on Mrs Thatcher's marital status

From Our Correspondent
Nairobi, March 21

President Amin of Uganda appeared today to be preparing for a possible change of Government in Britain. He told Mr Bob Asiles, his adviser on British affairs, to find out the age, height and marital status of Mrs Thatcher.

He also wanted to know whether she had children, and if so their ages, whether she has any university degrees, and her experience in politics, particularly in Africa and Asia, and her feelings on Uganda. He finally asked whether Mrs Thatcher was "intelligent enough and capable of making the British economy survive".

Uganda radio said that he had called for this information to prepare himself for the forthcoming Commonwealth conference in London. He already knows Mr Callaghan's background.

Zaire planes raid town occupied by invaders

Brazzaville, March 21.—The Zaire Air Force has sent bomber aircraft to raid Dilolo, one of four towns reported to be held by former Katangese gendarmes, in Shaba province (formerly Katanga), Zaire radio said today.

The invading force is reported to have crossed into Zaire from Angola last week in an attempt to capture the province.

Brussels: The attack on Shaba by former Katangese gendarmes is not part of a concerted action by opposition groups to overthrow President Mobutu of Zaire, according to diplomatic sources in Brussels.

If the rebel movement spread, however, or other groups followed its example it could have far-reaching consequences, according to the sources. The central Government is not directly threatened at present.

Opposition factions were taken by surprise, although there had been some cooperation between them and the gendarmes in the past.

Lord Cobham enriched lives in New Zealand

From Our Foreign Staff
Seoul, March 21

Rising as a rival to Japan and a new contender for a share of European markets, South Korea is in the middle of an unprecedented economic boom. Its growth rate rose by 15 per cent in real terms last year, exports went up by 52 per cent to \$7,500m (£4,10m) and all the signs indicate that the economy will make new spectacular strides this year.

This is mainly because millions of Koreans are prepared to work eight hours a day, six days a week for low wages.

Mrs Kim Eun Ha, a mother of two, for instance, works on the production line of a small electronics factory on the outskirts of Seoul for £25 a month.

There is little that the lowly paid labour force can do to demand higher wages. Strikes are outlawed by the emergency laws and, as a result, highly competitive South Korean manufactured goods are beginning to penetrate markets from Japan to South America.

Essentially, then, South Korea's docile labour force is the key to the Government's present five-year economic plan which is designed to provide the country with an annual growth rate of 9 per cent until 1981—on the premise that exports will rise by a minimum of 16 per cent every year.

Government economists are fully aware that the country can achieve this target only if

S Korea boom based on low wages

From Peter Hazelhurst

Seoul, March 21

Industry retains a competitive edge which has already cut deeply into Japan's traditional markets. But many Koreans are beginning to wonder how long the passive labour force will put up with long hours and low pay.

Although meek by comparative standards, labour is already beginning to demand a greater share of the country's new prosperity.

Even the Federation of Korean Trade Unions, endorsed and sanctioned by the Government, is beginning to revolt against the present trend. In a revealing explanation of how low wages contribute towards South Korea's astonishing export drive, Mr Chung Dong Ho, the president of the federation, points out: "Direct labour costs account for about 10 per cent of total production costs. Thus, even if wages are doubled, the impact on production costs will be minimal." International competitiveness should be bolstered by "producing quality goods tailored to the needs of foreign buyers. Attempts to bolster competitive power only through pricing must be discontinued."

Although workers on production lines in larger sections of industry earn up to £10 a month, the trade union federation argues that the average income of the Korean labour force is well below the established minimum cost of living for a family of five, which is £150.

In a recent complaint to industry Mr Chung said that

Mr Vorster discusses fate of the press Bill

From Our Correspondent
Cape Town, March 21

Mr Vorster, the South African Prime Minister, today met representatives of the Newspaper Press Union at their request to discuss the News paper Bill, which provides for statutory control of the South African press. The meeting lasted for nearly three hours and a half and the talks are to resume tomorrow.

The NPU, which represents the proprietors of all South African newspapers, is unanimous in its opposition to the provisions of the Bill: a new press code and a Press Council with a majority of state appointees and powers to fine journalists and close newspapers down for unspecified priors.

The NPU is seeking to have the Bill withdrawn, arguing that the newspaper industry's own voluntary Press Council is adequate for the maintenance of standards and that statutory press control is a gross infringement of press freedom.

Editors and journalists who refuse to accept the jurisdiction of the proposed council and decline to appear before it, will face fines and prison sentences.

No statement was issued immediately after today's meeting, which lasted for one or two hours. There was no indication that the Bill would be withdrawn.

Mr Vorster is thought unlikely to agree to the NPU's request for withdrawal of the Bill on the promise of revision of the code and procedures of its voluntary Press Council.

It is possible, however, that the Bill may be referred to a select committee at the second reading, which would delay it.

The effect of this would be to suspend the measure like a sword of Damocles over the heads of newspaper editors and proprietors. The newspaper Bill will be opposed outright by the opposition United Party and the Progressive Party in Thursday's second reading debate.

Russia completes tests early

Moscow, March 21.—The Soviet Union today announced that it had completed its latest test series of rocket launching into the north Pacific 10 days ahead of schedule.

The tests of carrier rockets, launched from inside Soviet territory, began on March 18.

Lord Cobham enriched lives in New Zealand

From Our Foreign Staff
Seoul, March 21

Lord Cobham, the New Zealand Prime Minister, has sent a message of sympathy to Lady Cobham on the death of her husband, the former Governor General of New Zealand.

"He served New Zealand with great distinction and his death is a loss felt by all of us," he said.

Mr D. J. Carter, the New Zealand High Commissioner in London, said Lord Cobham had been one of New Zealand's most popular Governors General. "He enriched our lives through his tremendous contributions to sporting and social life."

Leningrad trial of Belgian postponed

Moscow, March 21.—The Soviet authorities have postponed because of the judge's illness the trial of Mr Antoine Pyoe, a Belgian tourist, who was due to appear before a Leningrad court today on charges of anti-Soviet activities, the Belgian Embassy said. Reuter.

Briton held

Bangkok, March 21.—Miss Rita Nightingale, a Briton, and two Hongkong men were arrested here yesterday as they were about to board an aircraft. Police claimed they found 8.8lb of heroin hidden in an overnight bag and in a transistor radio. AP.

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But many Koreans are beginning to wonder how long the passive labour force will put up with long hours and low pay.

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In a recent complaint to industry Mr Chung said that

labour was being exploited.

"The gross national product grew at an annual rate of 11 per cent during the third five-year plan and during 1976 the gap registered a real growth rate of 15 per cent, while the growth rate in manufacturing rose by a staggering 25 per cent during the past three months."

"In addition labour productivity rose by an impressive 10 per cent during the first half of 1976. But in spite of the high growth rate of the economy, most workers receive wages which do not even meet the level of the minimum cost of living."

The labour federation is asking for an average wage increase of 37 per cent this year but it is believed that the Ministry of Labour, which arbitrates between the unions and management, prefers 20 per cent.

Government officials claim that workers will have to continue to make sacrifices for the sake of the national economy. "We are trying to create more jobs instead of raising wages in one narrow sector. If we are going to do this we have to export. And this we have to do with the South Korean market," he said.

The Crown, Mr Andrew Thorhild for the taxpayer company.

MR JUSTICE FOX, in a reserved judgment, said that the taxpayer company had not traded on its assets to the value of £50,000. The Crown, Mr Andrew Thorhild for the taxpayer company, could not accept his argument. The draftsman must have assumed that a wide class of rights was within the description of "disposal of assets" and that those events had occurred then there was such a disposal. Thus, it argued, it was not necessary to ask, as the taxpayer company submitted, for the assets to be sold. The Lordship would accordingly allow the appeal and direct that the provisional registrations be confirmed.

Law Report March 21 1977

Chancery Division

Waste land once part of manor registrable as common land

In re Chewton Common
Before Mr Justice Slade
(Judgment delivered March 18)

So long as waste land was at one time part of a manor, it need not be in the same ownership as the lordship of the manor since it was waste land and having been waste land was not a manor to be registered as common land under section 22 of the Common Registration Act 1965, in 1966 or at the date of registration.

Mr F. M. Farris for the appellants said the respondents had not appeared and had not represented

pass under a device of "the manor" in the land's will.

Mr Farris, for the appellants, raised two contentions not remitted before the commissioner: that the lands having at all material times been waste land and having been waste land were not a manor to be registered as common land under section 22 (1) of the Common Registration Act 1965.

Mr Justice Slade held that the case was not a case of "common land" in section 22, even though they were severed from the manor in 1804 and/or alternatively had become waste land.

Mr F. M. Farris for the appellants said the respondents had not appeared and had not represented

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ENGLISH NATIONAL OPERA, 01-242 5100. Friday, 7.30; "Die Fledermaus," G. F. and M. T. 1977.

THE ROYAL SINFONY, 01-242 5100. Saturday, 7.30; "The Barber of Seville," G. Rossini.

THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF MUSIC, 01-242 5100. Saturday, 7.30; "The Barber of Seville," G. Rossini.

ROYAL DANISH ACADEMY OF MUSIC, 01-242 5100. Saturday, 7.30; "The Barber of Seville," G. Rossini.

ROYAL OPERA HOUSE, 01-242 5100. Saturday, 7.30; "The Barber of Seville," G. Rossini.

ROYAL OPERA HOUSE, 01-242 5100. Saturday, 7.30; "The Barber of Seville," G. Rossini.

ROYAL



THE ARTS

Prokofiev as propagandist

NPO/Muti
Festival Hall

Thomas Walker

Like the Eisenstein film from which it is drawn, Prokofiev's *Alexander Nevsky* cantata is one of the most compelling works of propaganda that Soviet culture has produced. With the Second World War fast approaching, it called on the Russian people to sacrifice, even evoking an image of German invasion in its battle of resistance against the Teutonic Knights. Western material of similar intent, at least such of it as I know, is crude by comparison.

To me *Alexander Nevsky* is also a work of unique sadness, written against a background of contained proletarian revolution and surviving imperialism. Sad, too, because of its intense nationalism that betokens the political degeneration of the first workers' state.

Sunday's performance by Muti and the New Philharmonic Orchestra was brilliantly controlled yet forcible, indeed stirring. I had not noticed before just how finely shaded is Prokofiev's orchestral palette nor how many levels of depiction the battle scenes embrace. Even the counterpoints seemed justified and unconvinced.

Daniel Wayenberg
Queen Elizabeth Hall

Joan Chissell

Before approaching Russia, the Dutch pianist, Daniel Wayenberg, divided the first half of his recital on Sunday afternoon somewhat unusually between Liszt and Stockhausen.

Many a pianist might prefer to play himself into such a hoard of trouble as Liszt's B Minor Sonata. Mr Wayenberg chose to tackle it first. His most valuable asset was the full, weighty tone he could bring to the grandioso second subject to the ominous pesante chords towards the end of the exposition, and to the expansive clarax of the Andante sostenuto section. But he was often in trouble with octaves, whether in triplet challenges near the start or the fiery outbursts near the end. He also somewhat muddied the texture at a few moments of heightened excitement.

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There was much superb playing from the wind and some of the string textures, such as the whispers at battle's end, were astoundingly delicate.

The Moscow-born mezzo-soprano Irina Arkhipova, married to the "Field of the Dead" just the right tone of winter-covered steel. Not the least, the film was demanded of the New Philharmonic Chorus; sang *Alexander Nevsky*, a bit like shouting down a vacuum less pit. I am not qualified to judge their Russian accents, but in other respects they marked him down for the Order of Lenin.

Earlier we heard music of 1909 by Stravinsky and Prokofiev. The *Scherzo fantastique* (Op 3), like other early works of Stravinsky is avishly eclectic, echoing his teacher, Rimsky-Korsakov, Tchaikovsky (in particular, I think, the Scherzo of his Piano Sonata), Wagner and, oddly, Dukas's *L'Apprenti sorcier*.

It is a tour de force of orchestration, and offered excellent scope to the agility of the NPO's strings and wind alike, with special honours, for Clifford Seville's alto flute playing. Prokofiev's *Sinfonietta* is a piece of filigreed panache, having been revised more than once, and shows the composer in a pleasantly unconvincing or perhaps merely unsubsidized vein.

A group of preludes by Rachmaninov told the same tale of generous romantic impulse but insufficient pianistic finesse. His right hand lacked the essential clarity clarity at the start of Op. 23 No 5 in E flat in the popular Op 23 No 5 in G major the rich nostalgia of his middle section was spoilt by a rushed, confused recapitulation. Even the simple little G minor piece, Op 32 No 5 was insufficiently light and limpid. But he found the lyrical warmth for Op 23 No 4 in D.

Stravinsky transcribed his three movements from *Petrushka* for Arthur Rubinstein and they demand a virtuoso technique. Mr Wayenberg, bravely tackled them right up to time, was plainly too taxed to do all that he would like to have done in colouring. But there were some telling outbursts of temperament in "Chez Petrushka", besides some boldly delineated revels in the last.

Mr Wayenberg's ear was nevertheless at its keenest in the precisely calculated sonorities of Stockhausen's *Klavierstücke* Nos 7 and 8, and all praise to him for making room for them.

Regis



Franco Zeffirelli on location in Tunisia

Zeffirelli on his film on Jesus

Franco Zeffirelli was in Twickenham over the weekend finishing off the soundtrack on the Italian version of *Jesus of Nazareth*. The ATV/RAI co-production goes out in two transmissions of just under and just over three hours on Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday with commercial breaks. America sees it courtesy of NBC also in two slices, but without commercials. Italy will view five episodes of an hour and 20 minutes each.

This was one of the reasons why the music did not fit the Italian credit titles precisely.

After two or three different attempts at re-phrasing the sound a tamura of trumpets suddenly came up on frame 739.

Regis

FRANCO ZEFFIRELLI

The studio tensions were at once broken. Laughter all round and a break for whisky.

Zeffirelli may well get his own fanfare, on and off screen, when Jesus has been resurrected. At the moment his personal praise goes in the first place to Robert Powell in the title role. Powell acts above all with his eyes, the camera is constantly moving on those two blue orbs, which have the dazzle of an Italian mosaic.

"Robert was the reason why I finally decided to take two years out of my life and make the film," Zeffirelli confessed. "I first had to clear my conscience and assure myself that I was about to abandon the whole project when Robert Powell came along. We first thought of casting him as a radical, introverted Judas, and then I began looking at those eyes you mentioned. Do you remember what Clark Gable once said? 'I didn't make my career on my looks or my voice, but on my left eye.' I think Robert is going to make his

I could and would treat Christ for a mass television audience.

Then came the problem of the actor for the world's trickiest role. I was looking for someone like the Peter O'Toole of 10 years ago, but there appeared to be no actors of the right calibre who were about 30 and British.

I knew above all that we could not be quirky—if you are making a two-hour film for the cinema, maybe you can take a little licence, but a six-hour television programme which may well reach an audience of 400 million is a different matter.

"There were two strong candidates in America, assuming they would have accepted the part, Dustin Hoffman and Al Pacino. They would have produced very different images of Jesus: with Hoffman it would have been a Jewish approach; with Pacino we would have had a more Byzantine figure. Both would have been fine for the two-hour film, but not for the audience of 400 million.

"I was about to abandon the

whole project when Robert

came along. We first thought of casting him as a radical, introverted Judas, and then I began looking at those

eyes you mentioned. Do you

remember what Clark Gable

once said? "I didn't make my

career on my looks or my voice,

but on my left eye." I think

Robert is going to make his

career on both his eyes, for at

all times they control the

screen. Cinema and television

are about how people look at

you. Robert's eyes are quite

extraordinary. He's a little

short-sighted—or is it long-

sighted?—and his focus is

a shade behind and above your

head. You are at once in awe

and respect; you feel guilty

even when he is being gentle.

The spell of our Jesus is in his

eyes.

Did Franco Zeffirelli start

with a visual concept of Christ?

Absolutely not. That is why

I considered both Hoffman

and Pacino, who would have cut

totally different figures. I have

been attacked, as my dear men-

tal Visconti was attacked, for

too much indulgence in aesthet-

ics. You may see on screen at

one moment the Christ of a

seventeenth-century Spanish

master, or the Christ of Dürer,

but that is entirely accident. I

didn't make this film to demon-

strate my attitude to art; good

taste should be there without

going back to specific paint-

ings.

Will the commercial breaks

in this country upset the flow?

"At first I thought they

would; now I feel they might

be an actual advantage. The

problem with this story, and it

is the finest story in the world,

is that it is too intense—not so

much at the beginning, but

from the moment Christ starts

to attract a following there is

no break in the tension. It is like an opera with too many

fanatic arias and not enough

recitative; the breaks will

allow the audience to breath."

Even before the film has been

transmitted voices have been

raised against it. Has Franco

Zeffirelli been upset by them?

"In the beginning we positively

welcomed complaints, interfe-

rence, opinions, advice. That is

why I engaged four religious

consultants, one Catholic, one

Anglican, one Jewish and one

Moslem. They were not a panel,

but four experts to whom we

could turn. But if you are refer-

ring to the vulgarity of this

Cloonlara
supported
again for
Derby

SPORT

Rugby Union

Mighty mouse roars back into arena of contesting Lions

By Peter West

Rugby Correspondent

There cannot be much doubt that, by his thunderous all-round performance against Wales, McLauchlan, the Scottish loose-head prop, has bounced back into contention for one of the problem places on the Lions tour of New Zealand, the party for which will be announced on Thursday. The "mighty mouse" was dropped from their side at the start of the championship, after winning 32 caps and leading them in 18 successive matches, and it was thought that his international days were done. He was 34 then, rising 35 (which age he reaches early next month), but the best news for the selector was that one watching him at Marleywood last Saturday would think him ready for the serve and the yellow.

If McLauchlan, who played in all eight internationals in New Zealand and South Africa in 1971 and 1974, is chosen for his third Lions tour, Orr, of Ireland, could be the other loose-head prop and there would be no need to consider the selection of Corson, England's tight-head, for the alternative position. Carmichael, under-21 international Scot, who looked to be as effective as ever last Saturday, must be challenging Price, of Wales, and Barron, of England, for one of the tight-head places.

Carmichael, who is 33, and the other Scottish cap-holder (49), would be a natural pick at the New Zealanders' after his injury experience in 1971, when he and the Irishman, McLaughlin, were battered out of the tour—before the internationals started—in the match against Canterbury.

If McLauchlan should go, and if the Lions selection is decided on the basis of form as well as injury, he would be a natural candidate for the captaincy. The list of aspirants for

this position is encouragingly strong. Bennett has done a fine job for Wales. Another Welshman, Quinell, has all the right qualities. Whatever happens, it is at forward that the international will be decided, and for that reason I think the captain should be one of the pack.

Reports from Dublin indicate that Orr scrummaged as soundly as anyone has this season against the formidable Paparemboro, that Keane had an abrasively strong game at lock and that Slattery will back his best form on a flank. Keane must thus be fancied to win one of the locks and, if anyone can make him available, he would now be first choice as a lock. This is the position for which Biggs, by his strong performance against Wales, must remain in line, although the Welshmen, Evans and Cobner, could have the official edge.

Morgan and Renwick were other Scots who advanced their claims last weekend. Renwick's swift, penetrative running could also make him a candidate on the wing. Hignell, who ought to be one of the Lions' full backs, has England's commitments, which apparently would keep him in England for the first few matches of the tour.

By way of a footnote to the championship, France achieved their second grand slam, not only without conceding a try, but by scoring from behind the posts in their matches. That might never have happened in the old days when they were less resilient and methodical, but, as my colleague, Richard Streeton, suggested yesterday, the Spaniards' interesting and flamboyant—and true to the gifts of nature.

The international board at their annual meeting in London on Thursday and Friday. Indications suggest that they may legislate for the differential penalty, in which case it may be introduced initially on an experimental basis.

MAKOTO (Japan): Toyota Motors

19, Oxford University 37.

Rugby League

New Murphy contract

Alex Murphy, the Warrington coach, will be offered a new three-year contract when his present one ends in May. Murphy said yesterday: "I was told about the offer of a new contract yesterday and I'm over the moon about it. I feel that I've the nucleus

of a good side here and it's nice to be given the chance to get the club back on top and reap the benefit of two or three years' work."

Murphy is completing a year's contract at present. He joined Warrington in 1971 on a five-year

contract.

RESULTS

289. M. Hayes, 72, 74, 71, 72, 221. J. McCullough, 66, 74, 72, 73, 222. R. L. Irwin, 72, 77, 69, 62, 72, 73. R. M. Irwin, 72, 73, 74, 72, 71. J. Nickerson, 72, 74, 204, 74, 75, 205. J. Watson, 68, 74, 77, 74, 204, 75, 76, 205. R. W. Ross, 75, 76, 77, 78, 206. C. G. O'Farrell, 75, 76, 77, 78, 207. Reuter and AP.

Golf

Hayes overtakes the leader

Jacksonville, Florida, March 20. Mark Hayes birdied the final hole today for an even-par 72 and first place in the \$300,000 tournament players' championship at the difficult Sawgrass golf course in Florida. Hayes, a 26-year-old, finished with a 72-hole total 289, one over par.

Mike McCullough, who was in the lead through the first three rounds, also birdied the last hole to finish second at 291. Bruce Devlin, of Australia, and Dale Irwin were each one over par on the final hole to tie for third at 292.

RESULTS: 289. M. Hayes, 72, 74, 71, 72, 221. J. McCullough, 66, 74, 72, 73, 222. R. L. Irwin, 72, 77, 69, 62, 72, 73. R. M. Irwin, 72, 73, 74, 72, 71. J. Nickerson, 72, 74, 204, 74, 75, 205. J. Watson, 68, 74, 77, 74, 204, 75, 76, 205. R. W. Ross, 75, 76, 77, 78, 206. C. G. O'Farrell, 75, 76, 77, 78, 207. Reuter and AP.

It's back to Britain and Aird for Bugner

The boxing: future of Joe Bugner is under a cloud following his 12 rounds points defeat by Ron Lyle, at Caesar's Palace, Las Vegas, on Sunday. The sluggish British champion turned the hard way

round. There is no substitute for action when he came back from a lay-off of nearly two years to lose on a split points decision in a bout for which he had started 8-5 favourite.

Bugner, his face flushed and scraped, stormed out of the dressing room after the bout and refused to talk to reporters, but he had to leave the ring, went right. The way I had things planned, you know, just fell apart. Unfortunately he was better than I thought. Ron was in very good condition." He said he would like to meet Lyle again, "but I would

have to have a different strategy next time."

But, as far as the world scene is concerned, Bugner has slipped several places, and it will be a hard climb back. He could meet Lyle again, but it will not be without much. Bugner can still earn a substantial living in Britain and Europe, and a British side defence against Billy Aird, of Liverpool, suddenly looks a possibility.

His last serious contest was on July 1, 1975, when he lost to Muhammad Ali over 15 rounds in Kuala Lumpur. He came out of retirement last October to box Richard Dunn, and it lasted less than one round. With such a sketchy background, to have risked his world number four ranking turned out to be the wrong decision.

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20AX—it's known as 'Eurocolour' across the Channel—is a dramatically simpler way to get colour TV precisely right. It is

a technological advance which represents more than twenty years research and development and marks a new era in television electronics design. No other 110° colour tube system in the world is so advanced.

What is the 20AX system?

It is the only fully self-converging slimline 110° tube system available for picture tubes in 18, 20, 22 and 26 inch sizes.

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Until now the inside of most colour TV screens has been coated with a million dots of red, green and blue phosphors, arranged in tiny triangles.

The dots become a colour picture when they are made to glow by firing beams of electrons at them from three electron guns housed in the neck of the picture tube.

The guns, one for each colour, are arranged, like the dots, in a triangle.

The beams are guided to their targets through thousands of tiny holes in what is known as a shadow mask. Getting

Skiing



Ingemar Stenmark, of Sweden, shows his World Cup form at Aare yesterday.

Stenmark goes for grand slalom

Aare, Sweden, March 21.—Ingemar Stenmark, of Sweden, coasted to victory today in the World Cup giant slalom here, finishing 2.20 seconds ahead of Klaus Heidegger, of Austria. Stenmark, a member of the World Cup team, started his thousands of supporters half-way down the second run over the 1,100m course, which drops 355 metres. But in a split second he brought his skis together, righted himself, and sped to one of the fastest times of the run.

He was the fastest on this morning's run.

Miloslav Sochor, of Czechoslovakia, was third and Italy's Bruno Woelker fourth. France's Michel Gagnon, of the World Cup, started his thousands of supporters half-way down the second run over the 1,100m course, which drops 355 metres. But in a split second he brought his skis together, righted himself, and sped to one of the fastest times of the run.

Stenmark later said that he also hoped to carry off the grand slalom title when the final World Cup events take place next week in Austria. Spotty, falling snow caused today's second run to be shortened by six gates.

GIGANT SLALOM: 1. I. Stenmark (Sweden), 2 min 46.02; 2. K. Heidegger (Austria), 2 min 48.22; 3. M. Sochor (Czechoslovakia), 2 min 49.22; 4. B. Woelker (Italy), 2 min 49.65; 5. T. Jakobson (Sweden), 2 min 51.15; 6. M. Brunner (Austria), 2 min 51.50; 7. C. Hennius (Sweden), 2 min 51.50; 8. R. Stenmark (Sweden), 2 min 51.50.

WORLD CUP: 1. I. Stenmark (Sweden), 31.4 pts; 2. K. Heidegger (Austria), 20.03; 3. P. Gros (Italy), 16.5; 4. S. B. Woelker (Italy), 16.5; 5. G. Thordarson (Iceland), 15.5; 6. G. Thordarson (Iceland), 15.5; 7. R. Hennius (Sweden), 11.5; 8. R. Hennius (Sweden), 11.5; 9. P. Gros (Italy), 9.75; 10. R. Stenmark (West Germany), 9.75.

Cricket

Pakistan bat to avoid an innings defeat

Georgetown, Guyana, March 21.—Pakistan face a daunting task to save the third Test match here and prevent West Indies from taking a 3-0 lead in the five-match series. When they resume their second innings tomorrow after today's rest day they will need a further 141 runs to save an innings defeat and a good many more than that to have much hope of forcing a draw.

Happy Sadiq's checkbook is only bruised and he will be able to resume his innings tomorrow when either Majid, or Zaheer Abbas is out. A par or, depending on these three because of the weather, will be the best chance for Pakistan to have so far let Pakistan down. Haroon Rashid, Mushtaq Mohammad and Asif Iqbal.

Haroon is suspect under pressure, Mushtaq is badly out of form and Asif has failed to repeat performance.

WEST INDIES: First innings, 425 (C. G. Greenidge, 51; V. A. Richardson, 120; Majid Khan 4 for 45).

Pakistan: First innings, 194.

Second innings, 194 (Sadiq Mohammad, not out, 62; Zaheer Abbas, 77; Majid Khan 4 for 45).

Total (no wkt): 513.

BOWLING (to date): Roberts, 10; 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th, 13th, 14th, 15th, 16th, 17th, 18th, 19th, 20th, 21st, 22nd, 23rd, 24th, 25th, 26th, 27th, 28th, 29th, 30th, 31st, 32nd, 33rd, 34th, 35th, 36th, 37th, 38th, 39th, 40th, 41st, 42nd, 43rd, 44th, 45th, 46th, 47th, 48th, 49th, 50th, 51st, 52nd, 53rd, 54th, 55th, 56th, 57th, 58th, 59th, 60th, 61st, 62nd, 63rd, 64th, 65th, 66th, 67th, 68th, 69th, 70th, 71st, 72nd, 73rd, 74th, 75th, 76th, 77th, 78th, 79th, 80th, 81st, 82nd, 83rd, 84th, 85th, 86th, 87th, 88th, 89th, 90th, 91st, 92nd, 93rd, 94th, 95th, 96th, 97th, 98th, 99th, 100th, 101st, 102nd, 103rd, 104th, 105th, 106th, 107th, 108th, 109th, 110th, 111th, 112th, 113th, 114th, 115th, 116th, 117th, 118th, 119th, 120th, 121st, 122nd, 123rd, 124th, 125th, 126th, 127th, 128th, 129th, 130th, 131st, 132nd, 133rd, 134th, 135th, 136th, 137th, 138th, 139th, 140th, 141st, 142nd, 143rd, 144th, 145th, 146th, 147th, 148th, 149th, 150th, 151st, 152nd, 153rd, 154th, 155th, 156th, 157th, 158th, 159th, 160th, 161st, 162nd, 163rd, 164th, 165th, 166th, 167th, 168th, 169th, 170th, 171st, 172nd, 173rd, 174th, 175th, 176th, 177th, 178th, 179th, 180th, 181st, 182nd, 183rd, 184th, 185th, 186th, 187th, 188th, 189th, 190th, 191st, 192nd, 193rd, 194th, 195th, 196th, 197th, 198th, 199th, 200th, 201st, 202nd, 203rd, 204th, 205th, 206th, 207th, 208th, 209th, 210th, 211st, 212nd, 213rd, 214th, 215th, 216th, 217th, 218th, 219th, 220th, 221st, 222nd, 223rd, 224th, 225th, 226th, 227th, 228th, 229th, 230th, 231st, 232nd, 233rd, 234th, 235th, 236th, 237th, 238th, 239th, 240th, 241st, 242nd, 243rd, 244th, 245th, 246th, 247th, 248th, 249th, 250th, 251st, 252nd, 253rd, 254th, 255th, 256th, 257th, 258th, 259th, 260th, 261st, 262nd, 263rd, 264th, 265th, 266th, 267th, 268th, 269th, 270th, 271st, 272nd, 273rd, 274th, 275th, 276th, 277th, 278th, 279th, 280th, 281st, 282nd, 283rd, 284th, 285th, 286th, 287th, 288th, 289th, 290th, 291st, 292nd, 293rd, 294th, 295th, 296th, 297th, 298th, 299th, 300th, 301st, 302nd, 303rd, 304th, 305th, 306th, 307th, 308th, 309th, 310th, 311st, 312nd, 313rd, 314th, 315th, 316th, 317th, 318th, 319th, 320th, 321st, 322nd, 323rd, 324th, 325th, 326th, 327th, 328th, 329th, 330th, 331st, 332nd, 333rd, 334th, 335th, 336th, 337th, 338th, 339th, 340th, 341st, 342nd, 343rd, 344th, 345th, 346th, 347th, 348th, 349th, 350th, 351st, 352nd, 353rd, 354th, 355th, 356th, 357th, 358th, 359th, 360th, 361st, 362nd, 363rd, 364th, 365th, 366th, 367th, 368th, 369th, 370th, 371st, 372nd, 373rd, 374th, 375th, 376th, 377th, 378th, 379th, 380th, 381st, 382nd, 383rd, 384th, 385th, 386th, 387th, 388th, 389th, 390th, 391st, 392nd, 393rd, 394th, 395th, 396th, 397th, 398th, 399th, 400th, 401st, 402



FALL OF THE NEHRU DYNASTY

Mrs Gandhi declared an emergency in India to save the country from chaos fomented by opposition parties and to give it instead firm discipline and stable government. She indignantly repudiated the charge that the maintenance of her own rule and her own leadership of the Congress Party was as strong a motive. Wherever the truth lay between national and personal ends, the first and most definite answer given by the election result is to Mrs Gandhi's future. Her rule, her leadership and her emergency have been rejected; her overwhelming defeat in her own constituency underlines the undeniable catastrophe.

This should end her eleven years in office as India's Prime Minister. It will be seen in India, surely, to end more than that. Save for Mr Lal Bahadur Shastri's brief intrusion, it will be seen as the end of a Nehru family dynasty that has ruled India for the thirty years since independence. The dynasty threatened to continue, as an outcome of the emergency, with the rise to power while not holding any party or national political office of Mr Sanjay Gandhi.

As his mother's close personal adviser his political activity led directly to disaffection among the Congress leadership. His harsh handling of such policies as family planning and slum clearance sparked angry denunciations. When the election campaign began his performance was quickly found to be a liability and his privately drawn up list of young candidates to replace old Congress stalwarts was hurriedly scrapped. The old members were reinstated and may have suffered at the polls thereby. Mr Sanjay Gandhi, too, was overwhelmingly defeated by the electors of Uttar Pradesh.

A WARNING TO PRESIDENT GISCARD

There are two mistakes to be avoided in analysing the results of the French municipal elections. The first is to underestimate the success of the left. The second is to assume that that success makes next year's parliamentary elections a foregone conclusion.

The success of the left is very difficult to summarize statistically, because of the lack of clearly comparable statistics. France uses a two-ballot electoral system. This means that each election produces two sets of statistics, neither of which is in itself a clear guide to the relative strengths of government and opposition.

There are also difficulties about comparing the results of municipal elections (where the degree of politicization obviously varies very greatly from the big city to the small village) with those of cantonal elections (where only half the electorate votes at a time, but in constituencies of roughly uniform size), and equally with clearly political elections like those of the National Assembly and the President of the Republic. The last municipal elections in 1971 are not really comparable either. They happened shortly before the Socialist Party began its spectacular recovery under Mitterrand's leadership. In many parts of France at that time the Socialists were allied in local government but with "moderates" and centrists. The votes of left and right were thus far from being as clearly identifiable as they are today.

NEW CAMBRIDGE FALLACIES

Mr Wynne Godley and Mr Francis Cripps have set out in Monday's *The Times* and, with others, in the *Cambridge Economic Policy Review* a powerful, lucid and admirably explicit argument for a sharp change of economic strategy. They favour a massive budgetary stimulus to the economy combined with general import controls for an indefinite period of years.

They are both exceptionally talented applied economists of what we have called the "new Cambridge school". Those who disagree as completely as we do with their prescriptions have a duty to explain where we think the fallacies lie in their argument.

The division of opinion rests on profound questions of economic theory and evidence, not on any merely practical or ephemeral judgments. We would not rest our disagreement on the fact that both the Cambridge propositions are explicitly ruled out by the terms of the Government's "letter of intent" to the International Monetary Fund. Nor would we rely just on the argument from the threat of retaliation against trade restrictions in a world which stands poised on the brink of a general and ruinous outbreak of protectionism in western Europe and North America.

To reach the Godley-Cripps conclusions three general premises are necessary: first, that the main source of Britain's secular proneness to rising unemployment and accelerating inflation is lack of competitiveness with overseas suppliers in home and export markets; secondly, that import controls will ease the dilemma. The evidence over the past twenty years of the progressive acceleration from cycle to cycle, slowly at first and then faster and faster, in Britain's inflation rate, combined with a rising average level of unemployment, is precisely what this hypothesis would lead one to expect; and this is corroborated by the fact that the same pattern is visible as well,

illiterate peasants. Normally not many more than half the electorate votes. The Congress vote has rarely gone above forty per cent of those voting. The interpretation of election results is further confused by the opportunism of elected members, many of whom are quite ready to desert their party and join the other side if office or some other attraction is strong enough. That process was going on during the campaign and may even continue today. The shape of any new government is thus still in doubt.

That conclusion would be coupled with the other obvious answer in this election: the positive preference for democracy. The opposition offered a straight electoral choice, one between dictatorship with Mrs Gandhi and political freedom with them, and to that there has been a straight answer. India sees no reason why its parliamentary system should be altered, still less why political leaders should be arbitrarily detained or the press censored. India wants no censors and fewer policemen.

The Janata coalition is relishing its probable victory. It is ahead of Congress and has a good prospect of an outright majority. But that does not end the importance of the Congress Party. It will remain the dominant party in India since no other with a national appeal is even in the making. It will thus be the most suitable machine for any aspirant to power. Unfortunately the election has thrown up no new leaders and has tarnished the reputation of some familiar ones. Nor has it marked any clear political trends: left and right are in any case misleading labels to use in India of any parties but those of the extreme left. Thus the balance of seats between Congress and the Janata Party is in doubt and neither has a leader who can easily command national support.

Indian elections make slow progress with so many millions of

electors. It was generally presented by all parties as a dress rehearsal for the general election which is exactly a year away, and the turn-out was high. It is therefore very worrying for the government parties that the body of communism apparently failed to work. The majority of voters appear to have accepted the Communists as a necessary part of the Socialist-led opposition, and are prepared to vote for lists headed by members of either party. If the Prime Minister himself, M. Raymond Barre, admits that the results "mark an undeniable success of the union of the left", who are we to deny it?

But it would be quite wrong to suppose that M. Barre has given up hope of winning the general election, or that he would be right to do so. Many things can happen in a year. If M. Barre's own economic plan succeeds in holding inflation below ten per cent this year without provoking a serious increase in unemployment, the government could recover much of its prestige. Its supporters could also improve their chances if they manage to patch up their internal quarrels, to which the contest between M. Chirac and M. D'Ornano in Paris has given so much unedifying publicity. There is still time to convince the French floating voter that, whatever the virtues of socialists and communists in local government, to hand the whole country and its economy over to their management would involve an unacceptable degree of risk.

though in most cases less dramatically, in the other main western industrial countries where collective bargaining and "full employment" policies coexist.

If those three things were true, then the Godley-Cripps strategy would be highly successful, international obligations apart. Our explanation of the unemployment-inflation problem has been different, namely that it arises inevitably and predictably from the interaction of collective bargaining and "full employment" fiscal and monetary policies.

In brief, collective bargaining is an exercise in monopoly supply and therefore necessarily implies a high equilibrium level of under-supply, in this case of unemployment. Incomes policies cannot for long change this consequence because they cannot at reasonable cost deal with the problem of changes in relative pay. Attempts to reduce unemployment below this equilibrium level, which may well be in the low millions, merely cause a temporary spurt of economic activity followed by a permanent increase in inflation.

On this view the problem would not be substantially different if Britain were a closed economy; and neither export-led expansion nor import controls will ease the dilemma. The evidence over the past twenty years of the progressive acceleration from cycle to cycle, slowly at first and then faster and faster, in Britain's inflation rate, combined with a rising average level of unemployment, is precisely what this hypothesis would lead one to expect; and this is corroborated by the fact that the same pattern is visible as well,

BBC reporting of Northern Ireland

From the Chairman of the BBC

Sir, The BBC's reporting of Northern Ireland has often been under fire, and especially so in the last few weeks, following our television interview with a man who claimed to have been maltreated by the RUC. The argument has turned both on the general role of the BBC in reporting about the Province, and on the particular programme.

I cannot describe our general stance better than in the terms used in your leader of March 16. The BBC "sees the duty of public service broadcasting (in Northern Ireland) as being to report and reflect the conflict in all its manifestations. It sees both communities as part of its constituency, and to preserve its credit with both, it must not become the partisan of either."

This general philosophy has been spelled out in detail, with many illustrations drawn from experience, by our Controller in Northern Ireland, Mr. Richard Francis, in a recent lecture at Chatham House. This stressed that we are not impartial as between democratic and undemocratic means—we do not give equal time to right and wrong, there never has been any question of that.

At their last meeting the Board of Governors, in whose name I am writing, looked afresh at the issues raised by their general policy, and at the criticisms made of the recent "Tonight" programme. They believe that the general philosophy, set out in the lecture by Mr. Francis, is right, and the only tenable one for a free broadcasting organisation in a free country. On the other hand they recognised, as on so many occasions in the past, the difficulties that can arise in practice. However good the philosophy, it does not always indicate infallibly the right course of action in a difficult world.

Turning to the "Tonight" programme, the Governors were in no doubt about the scrupulous care with which the programme had been prepared. And they welcomed the sober and dignified introduction by Keith Kyle, setting out the appalling nature of the RUC's treatment of the police, which could only have been totally satisfied by waiting for the publication of the results of the enquiry at a time not easily calculated, but certainly distant. The Board believes that the right decision in principle was taken, but acknowledges, once again, that there is room for argument about how principle should be applied.

Returning to the wider issues, it should be beyond doubt that the BBC's impartiality is not as between right and wrong, but as between the two communities in Northern Ireland. It should be equally clear that the BBC has a responsibility to make available to the whole United Kingdom audience as complete and truthful a picture as it can of the state of affairs in Northern Ireland. It has to take account of what may provoke in the Province or at Westminster; but equally this has to be weighed against fairness and honesty towards every side. The calculation is invariably difficult.

Nevertheless, the BBC welcomes the airing of these issues in public debate, and the Board of Governors has particularly appreciated the participation of the press in this latest phase of the argument.

So far we have seen no convincing indication of the practical alternatives that our politics would advance, or of the arguments they would use to dispose of the objections which you yourself have ascribed to us, and which we have done our best to elucidate. If we are to be persuaded to re-examine our philosophy, we must, surely, be given a statement of both. We might still reject the alternatives, but at least we should know, as would the public, what in reality it is that we are being asked to do.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL SWANN,
Broadcasting House, W1.
March 21.

Preserving our heritage

From Mr John Hannam, MP for Exeter (Conservative), and Dr Donald Adamson

Sir, The Government's wish to preserve our national heritage as expressed in their Wealth Tax Green Paper is difficult to reconcile with their handling of the threat to the Rosebery collection at Mentmore. Long bureaucratic delays and a serious lack of consultation with specialist bodies have made it less likely that the collection will be saved by help from any private source.

Whether or not the Mentmore collection can still be preserved at this late stage, urgent consideration should now be given to improving the future response to such threats to the national heritage.

1. It is clear that much of the delay has been caused by the involvement of three separate government departments with Mentmore. The national heritage must be made the responsibility of one minister who would be advised by interested parties, from owners of historic houses to art historians and museum specialists.

2. Recent ministerial statements have shown that the Land Fund no longer fulfills the aims of the original fund set up by Dr Hugh Dalton. It is now nothing more than a bookkeeping entry in the budget of the Department of the Environment, its whole effectiveness as a means of saving our national heritage has been undermined.

3. Efforts must be made to alleviate the fiscal burdens on our great collections. Among other things the government should consider extending the concessions on endowment funds (Finance Act 1976, section 84). For the cheapest and most

EEC sugar policy

From Mr Ian Smith

Sir, Lords Jellicoe and Douglas of Barlock (March 16 and March 12) are on strong ground in condemning the proposal by the European Commission to impose a special levy on the production of high fructose glucose syrup. Technological advance in a new industry is likely to be rapid and of a cost-reducing nature. To deprive consumers of the benefits of technical progress in order to protect inefficient beet growers in Italy and Northern Germany is wholly to be deplored.

No doubt the Commission's proposal is prompted by the spectre of an impending sugar mountain. The development of high fructose glucose syrup is bound to be disruptive, not least because it will displace sugar in markets where consumption is stagnant or even declining. The problem is how to minimize the disruption created by the new technology.

The Community's sugar surplus is the result of an unrealistic pricing policy which makes the growing of sugar beet more profitable for large farmers than the raising of alternative crops. It could be eliminated by an appropriate change in the structure of agricultural prices. Italy is a relatively efficient pro-

ducer of maize, and barley could be extended in Northern Germany. Both would reduce the dependence of the Community on the importation of soybean meal as cattle feed, an important factor in the rising cost of beef.

The appropriate policy therefore is not to lock up technical progress but to restore balance to the Common Agricultural Policy. Land has alternative uses. Factory processing capacity is more specific, and here compensation should be paid to those forced to adjust to the new technology.

If affluence confers choice, poverty eliminates choice. Many poor countries depend on sugar for a significant part of their export earnings. It would be highly regressive if the response of the European Community to the introduction of high fructose syrup is merely to dump more sugar on to the world market. This would be tantamount to shifting the burdens of adjustment on to those weak developing countries which have no obvious alternatives to sugar and are least able to adapt to the new technology.

Yours faithfully,
IAN SMITH
University of Newcastle upon Tyne,
Department of Economics,
Newcastle upon Tyne,
March 17.

From Mr J. V. Matthews

Sir, It is a great pity that the food manufacturers are opposing EEC

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Is this the time for an election?

From Mr J. E. Humphrey

Sir, In your first leader of today (March 19), "Parliament's Choice", in which you say that an election at this moment would need the justification of at least one of three specified conditions (which you proceed closely to argue), have you not overlooked the simple truth of the matter? For a political party (as for an individual) does there not come a time when, unless at least it stands up and fights against arrogant and contemptuous treatment, its self respect will go under?

Yours faithfully,
J. E. HUMPHREY,
9 Offington Gardens,
Worthing,
Sussex.

March 19.

From Mr T. C. Skeffington-Lodge

Sir, Reading as it were, between the lines, I gather from your leader this morning (March 19) that you are not in favour of an early General Election. I think you accurately reflect public opinion in adopting this attitude.

While there is unquestionably pretty widespread disappointment that our economic difficulties still remain largely unsolved, and the Government of the day, not unnaturally, though, as I think, unfairly, gets the blame for this, there is a growing belief that despite its defects, it is the best available instrument for overcoming

improving prospects have undoubtedly led an unconstructive and not by any means united Opposition to press for an early election which following a Tory victory would enable Mrs Thatcher, in the short run, to benefit from the good results of the unpopular ground work Mr Callaghan and his colleagues are undertaking in the national interest—as they see it. What the electors would have to consider most carefully, if the Government is beaten next Wednesday, is whether a right wing Tory Administration could, after its election, command enough backing to win through to success for the country which I for one believe lies ahead of its present direction. It is because I think that the current grave industrial and international problems we face would be harder to solve under an about-turn Thatcher Government, and that at how industrial strife would so

greatly grow as probably to be insoluble, even if dealt with by some form of dictatorial administration, that I hope, as do many others, that a "down to earth" and "facing the facts" Mr Callaghan will continue as Prime Minister, backed as he is by a team which is increasingly

knowledge small

Esteems her continuance to be

I do not for one moment believe that Mrs Thatcher lacks knowledge! But "countenance divine"? Might she not catch a cold?

Indeed might we all quite easily catch a cold in an early election? And all join Mr Whitelaw, Mr Maudling, etc, as "faded daffodils"!

Yours faithfully,

ROBIN McCALL,
The Hospice,
St Giles Hill,
Winchester.

March 19.

Cannabis law reform

From Mr David Dimler

Sir, Ronald Butt (*The Times*, March 17), argues that eight years after the Wootton Report we should be "profoundly grateful" to Mr Callaghan for his blunt opposition to cannabis law reform, and whilst it cannot be proved categorically that his decision was responsible for our escaping the "dangers of cannabis" there is supposed to be good analogical evidence for this in the "rotten fruits" borne by the 1967 Abortion Act and changes in the pornography laws.

May we point out that the cannabis laws have in fact had no appreciable deterrent effect. In 1968 the Wootton Committee guessed there might be between 30,000 and 300,000 people who had tried cannabis at least once. Five years later a BBC survey estimated that the figure was 3,812,700. Whatever the real number is, it is clear that use of cannabis is no longer restricted to any particular class, race or age group, and that it has indeed become a "functional equivalent" of alcohol for a large number of people regardless of the law's "moral" posture.

The real effect of the law has been the criminalization and con-

sequent embitterment of those people, mainly young, unemployed, inner city dwellers, against whom the law is selectively enforced. Arbitrary justice is the most harmful consequence attendant on the use of cannabis.

The appalling lack of responsibility which characterizes much press reporting on the subject of cannabis is perfectly illustrated by the publication in *The Times* of such erroneous propositions as "There is now knowledge that did not exist with certainty in 1969 that cannabis is addictive, and creates physical dependence and withdrawal symptoms", based upon a report from a book not yet publicized and subjected to scientific criticism.

Our cannabis laws are now among the most repressive in the "civilized" world. Prohibition is a singularly ineffective tool for controlling popular and harmless pursuits. The open would which the "drug problem" has been to society at large would dry up and behead if the blunt instrument of the criminal law were withdrawn from this area of private behaviour.

Yours sincerely,
D. DIMLER,
Research Officer, for Release,
1 Elgin Avenue, W9.

Seal culling

From Mr J. K. Hiller

Sir, A regular sign of spring in recent years has been the publication of photographs of baby seals on the ice of Newfoundland and demonstrating against their killing. May I, as a resident of Newfoundland, offer a few observations?

The opponents of the seal hunt stress two main points. First, that the harp seal is an endangered species and second, that the hunt is in some way morally reprehensible since it is for pelts rather than for meat. The first contention is debatable, since the quota established by the Canadian federal government is designed to ensure the survival of the species without its being so numerous as to damage the cod and other fisheries, but there is no doubt room for argument as to what that quota should be.

The second contention is, however, dubious in the extreme. Seals are not the only animals hunted for their pelts, and one would have far more respect for the protesters were they equally concerned with the beaver or the fox. One can only conclude that because the baby

Exit the cream cracker

From Mrs Michael Devas

Sir, This correspondence reminds me of the lady in Sussex who, not long after the

Shopping/Philippa Toomey

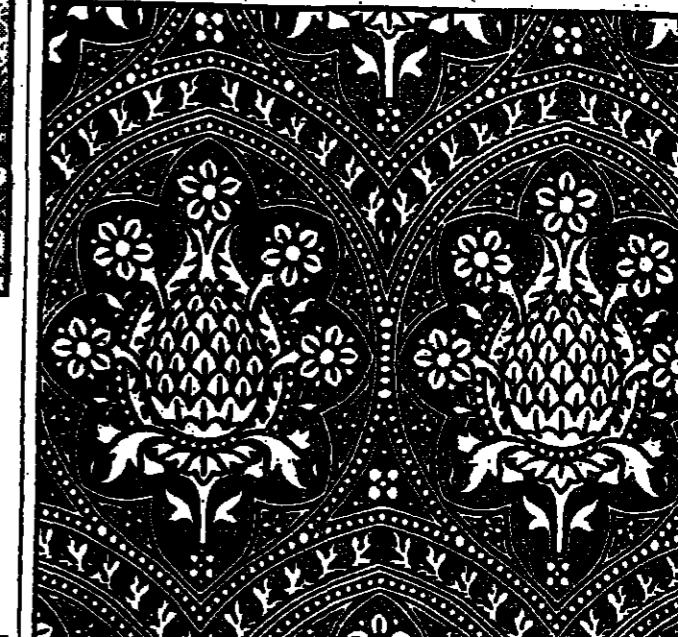
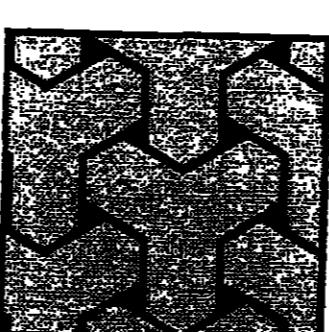
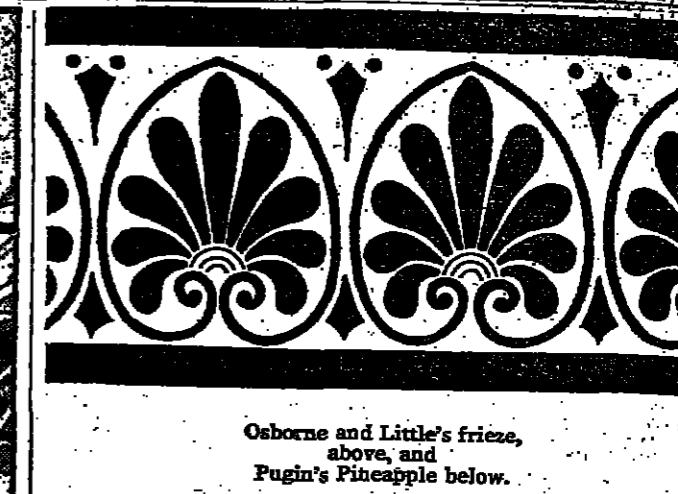
Something special to hang on the wall

Last year the most important thing in my life was not the American Bicentennial or the resignation of Harold Wilson, but the fact that, at last, I learned how to wallpaper. From *The Reader's Digest Book of How to Cope with Virtually Any Emergency* Apart from a Nuclear Holocaust it didn't look all that simple. What you really need is a kind and patient friend with a straight eye, which I had, who also lent me his pastes. The next thing is to choose your wallpaper.

The question of why people make one choice rather than another is a perpetual mystery to me. I have always preferred plain strong colours, and I have ended up with pale blue and brown shades in my bedroom, influenced partly by the fact that I was given a bed by another kind and patient friend, which had a dark brown headboard, and partly because I fell in love with a wallpaper, dismally called "Tweet" (£3.09 a roll) in Saaderson's Chintz range.

This has a faintly Brighton Pavilion air of birds and trellises—two birds looking in opposite directions, which were hell to match. "Safari", another Chintz pattern, had even bigger birds and flowers, a huge, gorgeous, romantic paper with four background colours, of which I liked the scarlet and the black best, if you could find a room to do the pattern justice, at £3.48 a roll, with matching fabric, at £4 a metre. Shown here is "Keppell" (why Keppell? one asks, hunting feverishly in the catalogue for Wilson and Betty) in four colourways, of which the prettiest is all blue shades, and the one shown is in blues, pinks and beiges at £2.83 a roll.

For those who sit in front of pattern books for hours gazing hopelessly at page after page, on the walls of Keats's House



Three fabric designs by Kaffe Fassett for Designers Guild. Top to bottom: Pebbles, £6.50. Fossils, £5.50. Late Leaf, £7.50 per metre.

Osborne and Little's foil paper, above, and from the Hanging Garden range, below.

Sanderson's Keppell, above, and Osborne & Little's hessian, below.

in Hampstead, and the Pineapple in the House of Commons. As everything is printed to order, no stock is kept, and you may have any colour you wish. I loved the Pugin Trellis in dark, soft red on a pinky red background, and the paper can be moiré or jaspé—or even both, rather like dancing the waltz and the rumba at the same time. Prices are being revised (upwards, alas) but they start at £13.45 a roll plus VAT, with a minimum order of 10 rolls, from Messrs Watts and Co, Ltd, 7 Tufton Street, London SW1P 3QB (01-222 7169).

Osborne and Little are in

complete contrast—everything is new, modern, bright, sparkling, with numbers for the papers rather than names. I have always hesitated about putting a very large design up on my walls, but I was very struck by the notion of huge navy blue and white pelicans (£12.50 plus VAT) and have seen a very complicated bird, trellis and butterfly design shown to great advantage in a small country cottage. Shown here is 255A in the Hanging Garden range, stylized red poppies with green leaves on a curry coloured background (a fairly mild curry) at £5.20 plus VAT a roll, printed hessian in

a strong, almost Islamic design, brown on cream, or navy blue on cream, £3.75 a metre plus VAT, 100cms wide (PH 200), and one of their silver foil designs, 104B, two shades of green for trellis and leaves, bright pink flowers on silver, £11 a roll plus VAT. They had a very exciting foil paper of silver and black tigers leaping out at you, but I thought, on the whole, it would be hard to find a room to suit them. Also

shown here is 255A in the Hanging Garden range, stylized red poppies with green leaves on a curry coloured background (a fairly mild curry) at £5.20 plus VAT a roll, printed hessian in

dition which has begun to bore you. Inquiries from Osborne and Little, 304 King's Road, SW3 (01-352 1456).

"Are you quite happy looking round?" I asked one of the assistants at Designers Guild, just across the road from Osborne and Little. I most certainly was—it is one of the prettiest shops in London, full of design ideas and with a co-ordination of pattern and colour which gives great pleasure. Shown here are some of the designs for new fabrics from Kaffe Fassett for Tricia Guild, in four sets of subtle colourings—my favourite is in shades of

range from £6.50 to £7.50 a metre for the fabrics, and there is coordinating wallpaper for all the designs at £4 a roll.

Designers Guild fabrics may be obtained at a number of places throughout the country, so inquiries to Designers Guild, 277 King's Road, London, SW3 SEN (01-351 1271).

My next problem is papering a ceiling, which I am assured is not only fiendishly difficult—the blood runs out of your arms if you fall off ladders into the paste bucket, you can't manage it yourself, and it is the cause of many an irreparable rift between husband and wife. Who loves ya? When papering a ceiling, NOBODY.

Aeroplanus helveticus africaphilus S.R.

A specimen to be observed more and more frequently in Africa.

The *Aeropanous helveticus africaphilus* S.R., which even the layman can easily recognize by its silvery wings and handsome red stripes, has been little noticed hitherto in classical entomology. Quite unjustly. The Africaphilus S.R. (the letters denote its discoverer, Swissair)

is definitely a useful insect, species of which include the DC-8, DC-9, and DC-10.

Considering its low emission level and quiet movements, it is probably the most useful insect ever to land in Africa. This is apparent particularly from the

infallible instinct with which it flies tirelessly from Switzerland to Abidjan, Accra, Algiers, Cairo, Casablanca, Dakar, Dar es Salaam, Douala, Johannesburg, Khartoum, Kinshasa, Lagos, Libreville, Monrovia, Nairobi, Oran, Tripoli, and Tunis.

Your travel agent or Swissair will gladly give you further information. For instance about the best connecting flights from London and Manchester via Switzerland.

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the
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COURT CIRCULAR

ENSINGTON PALACE
March 21: The Duke of Gloucester, as Patron, today visited worksites of Bridgeman Power services. His Royal Highness was received upon arrival by Sir Carl Arvidson, Chairman, and Mr. William Pearce, Chief Probation Officer for Inner London, and was shown around the centralized to Launches by the Directors. Lieutenant-Colonel Simon Bland was in attendance.

The Duke of Kent is to be Patron of the National Army Museum in succession to the late Duke of Gloucester.

The funeral of Viscount Cobham will be private. For family, friends and the Parish Church of St John the Baptist, Hagley, at noon on Thursday, March 24. A service of memorial and thanksgiving will be held in Worcester Cathedral on Friday, March 25, at 2.30 pm. Presentation of the Crosses Bearer in St George's Chapel, Windsor Castle, will take place at a date to be announced later.

Mr and Mrs John Kirwan-Taylor very much regret they were unable to attend the memorial service for Sir Brian Mountain owing to absence abroad.

Royal engagements

The following engagements for April have been announced by the Royal Household:

7: The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh will be present at Maundy Service in Westminster Abbey. The Queen distributes Royal Maundy during the service.

15: The Duke of Edinburgh, President of the British Amateur Athletic Board, receives members of European Amateur Athletic Board, Windsor Castle.

20: The Queen, accompanied by the Duke of Edinburgh, presents new Colours to 1st Battalion Royal Guards, Buckingham Palace

garrison, in the Queen's Guard's

Grassmarket, with the castle in the background, by Louis Rayner made £4,000 (estimate £2,000).

"Penning the Flock", a water-colour in Pre-Raphaelite style by the great Sir John, was sold Colmigh's at £1,500 (estimate £1,000); it is signed and dated 1883. "A view of the Rialto Bridge, Venice", by William Wyke, dated 1883, went to Agnew at £2,000 (estimate £2,500). The sale totalled £68,581 with 4 per cent sold.

At Sotheby's in London a sale of printed books demonstrated the continuing interest in natural history. H. Andrews' "Coloured Engravings of Flowers", four volumes in two parts, by the author in 1802-09, made £5,500 (estimate £3,000 to £5,000). The sale totalled £68,581 with 4 per cent sold.

State acquisition: Richard Redgrave's painting of a working-class girl, "The Emigrant's Last Sight of Home", has been acquired for an undisclosed sum by the Tate Gallery (the Press Association writes).

Drawing by Rubens is sold for £21,860

By Geraldine Norman
Sale Room Correspondent

A large and detailed Rubens drawing depicting a grisly scene, "Thomoris presented with the head of Cyrus", was sold at Sotheby's on March 20 for 34,000 guilders (estimate £43,000 to £55,000), or £21,860 to a British dealer.

The elegantly robed Thomoris is shown in a columned palace accompanied by women, courtiers and soldiers; a slave lifts the head from a bowl, eagerly watched by a

The drawing has graced some of the most famous of drawing cabinets; it was in Pierre Crozat's sale in 1741 and passed to Marie-Antoinette. It belonged to Sir Thomas Lawrence, then to King William IV, then to the Duke of Northumberland, and in 1885, it was sold at Sotheby's in the November of that year for £8,000. The drawing is a preliminary study, with differences for the engraving of 1830.

At Sotheby's a tiny Rembrandt, "Half-length study of an actor", at 52,000 guilders (estimate £21,860 to 30,500) or £12,000. It was another treasure from the collection of M. Jacques Borie. The collection of M. Jacques Borie, the Duke of Northumberland's dispersed last year after some of the contents had been ceded to the Treasury in lieu of death duties.

In London Phillips were also selling drawings, with some high prices, in Victorian watercolours, Edinburgh, with a picture of a Grassmarket, with the castle in the background, by Louis Rayner made £4,000 (estimate £2,000).

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Forthcoming marriages

The Hon James Bruce and Miss C. Wu

The engagement is announced between James, second son of Lord and Lady Aberdare, and Grace, daughter of Mrs Katherine Wu, of Columbia, South Carolina, and of the late Allen Jao Wu.

Mr W. N. C. Scott and Miss K. Doody

The engagement is announced between Nigel, younger son of Lady Elizabeth Scott of Culverhouse, Gloucester, and the late Lt-Colonel C. R. Scott, and Angels, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs K. Doody, of Johannesburg, South Africa.

Dr J. Fairlamb and Dr C. A. W. Connally

The engagement is announced



Sporting paintings The country scene by John Frederick Herring, senior, which is to be sold in Paris tomorrow from the collection of M. Jacques Borie. The collection contains English and French sporting paintings of outstanding quality. It is more than unusual to see the British school so represented in a French school as is best represented by a hunting scene by Alfred de Dreux.

Rare penny may fetch £2,500

By Our Coins Correspondent

English kings have never scrupled to call on the assistance of God in one form or another to assist them, and have long made use of their coinage to demonstrate the fact.

A rare specimen of one of those coins comes up for sale tomorrow.

The words "God With Us" were placed on the coins of the Commonwealth with the addition of "God Save the King", and "God Save the Queen".

The standard consisted of a heavy mast carrying the flag of St Peter of York, St John of Beverley and St Wilfrid of Ripon, borne on a four-wheeled wagon and crowned with a silver pyx containing the Host. The Host was struck to command the troops as seems likely, the date of issue would be late 1138 or early 1139.

This little piece of silver, weighing 1/2 gram, is expected to fetch more than £2,500.

Since the archbishop raised the army, obviously the church had no objection to God being put on the coinage to their own defensive use. Since England then belonged to the Church of Rome and transubstantiation was pre-

sumably believed in, it is thought the advance of such a standard would have had a shattering effect.

The idea seems to have had an incentive enough inception when the Anglo-Saxon "O" Ford of the "Commonwealth" was defeated by the "Norman King", and "He had done marvels things", some of these coins. Later kings were to put "I reign under the auspices of Christ". "I have made God my helper" and similar religious sentiments, while Charles having raised the standard of civil war, had no objection in action. "Let God arise (and) let his enemies be scattered", not from the king's point of view, with much ultimate effect. All these legends were in abbreviated Latin.

There is a lot of difference between Nelson's prayer before the Battle of Trafalgar and calls on God for cooperation in the cause of iniquity. God to their own defensive use. Since England then belonged to the Church of Rome and transubstantiation was pre-

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Near standstill in earnings widens gap between pay and prices

By David Blake

Economics Correspondent

Average earnings were virtually static in January widening the gap between pay and prices but increasing the chances that the Government's target for the present pay policy will be observed. During the first six months of the policy earnings increased by 5.5 per cent compared with an expected increase of 7 per cent for the year as a whole.

However, only 0.1 per cent of this increase occurred during January, lending some credibility to the view in Whitehall that there was great bunching of large pay settlements in the second half of 1976.

But the pay policy will clearly come under heavy strain during the coming months. If its targets are to be met, average earnings can increase only by about 11 per cent between the beginning of February and the end of July, at a time when prices will still be rising quickly.

Because of this there is the possibility of some slippage, as occurred during the last round of pay restraint. It is also likely that pressure for big increases in money incomes during the next round of pay negotiations will build up during the next few months unless increases in real earnings through tax cuts reduce the pressure on living standards.

There have already been quite substantial falls in real earnings. At the end of January earnings were 11.8 per cent up on a year previously, while prices had risen 16.6 per cent during the same period.

The gap would have been larger but for the increase in the amount of overtime, which has been rising steadily since February, 1976, and which is believed to account for about 1% and 3% of a percentage point of the 11.8 per cent increase.

Extra overtime partly explains why earnings are rising at a fairly rapid rate compared to the predictions made at the time the present policy was agreed. There is no sign of

CBI remedy for Britain's recovery

By Malcolm Brown

The lesson of the recent discussions with the International Monetary Fund was that we had now reached a level at which we either put our own economic and industrial house in order or our creditors would do it for us. Lord Watkinson, president of the Confederation of British Industry said yesterday.

Speaking at the Kingston Regional Management Centre, New Malden in Surrey, Lord Watkinson gave a warning that even North Sea oil would not save us from having to make this decision.

"It is very much a management decision. It is like a board that takes over a near bankrupt business and has to decide what management policies must be applied to get the company right."

At present, said the CBI president, we were delivering about 75 per cent of our national horsepower. "Raise that to 95 per cent and most of our problems would be solved."

Lord Watkinson said that the confederation's proposals for fostering recovery had been made known, including provision for getting inflation down to around 5 per cent by mid-1978, doubling real profits to pay for investment, and cutting taxes to restore incentives.

However, it was essential to make sure that as this kind of programme gathered speed it was not wrecked by ill-judged actions such as insistence on industrial democracy and attacks on free enterprise and the profit motive.

How the markets moved

Falls

Ass News 12p to 175p
Attack Oil 10p to 85p
BP 28p to 82p
De La Rue 15p to 345p
Dunlop 6p to 37p
E&B 5p to 215p
Fisons 22p to 175p
GEC 25p to 329p
GKN 5p to 329p
Heath CS 22p to 58p
Imp Chem Ind 5p to 345p
Imp Cont Gas 15p to 375p

Rises

Lifman J 5p to 125p
MEM Bldgs 5p to 226p

Equities fell over a broad front. Gilt-edged securities were in decline. Dollar premium 112 per cent (effective rate 39.98 per cent). Sterling gained 5 pts to \$1.177. The effective rate was 61.8 per cent.

Marchwiel 12p to 155p
McLeod Russel 15p to 200p
Racial Elect 12p to 295p
Royal 15p to 200p
Sedg Forbes 15p to 485p
Section 1st 15p to 485p
Shell 10p to 485p
Sun Alliance 15p to 445p
Swan Hunter 8p to 82p
Ultramar 10p to 145p
Unilever 14p to 460p
Warren Plant 13p to 145p

Mount Lyall 10p to 45p
Tate 6p to 15p

Gold gained \$2 an ounce to \$151.875. SDR-S was 1.15720 on Friday while SDR-E was 0.674241.

Commodities: Renter's index was at 1752.1 (previous 1749.4). Sterling gained 5 pts to \$1.177. The effective rate was 61.8 per cent.

Reports, pages 24, 25 and 26

Midland Bank bows to profit sharing call

By Christopher Thomas

Union pressure on the Midland Bank appears to have succeeded in winning a commitment for a profit sharing scheme. Details of the bank's offer are being released and should be in union hands shortly.

Profit sharing schemes are already operated by Barclays, National Westminster and Williams and Glyn's and Midland, which, in 1976, more than doubled its profits over 1975 to £165m, said yesterday that it proposed to introduce profit sharing to 43,000 staff when pay policy permitted.

The National Union of Bank Employees' latest journal says that detailed discussions on the proposals will take place as a matter of urgency. "It will be the union's intention to do everything possible to get the scheme implemented without delay."

It continues: "However, we recognize that there may be some difficulty in implementing the scheme under the present phase of the social contract. If it is not possible under this phase the union will be pressing for sufficient flexibility in the next phase. . . . It went on to refer to the 10.26 per cent profit increase last year.

The bank said yesterday that its offer would be put to NUEE and the Association of Scientific, Technical and Managerial Staffs (ASTMS), which share bargaining rights in Midland.

It has faced the possibility of a challenge under the contentious Schedule 11 of the Employment Protection Act, which came into effect in January and aims to give equality in pay and conditions between similar employees in the same locality.

any agreement in breach of its

abolition five million workers are estimated to have settled in the terms of stage two. Basic wage rate figures issued by the Department of Employment show a rise of less than 0.1 per cent during February, and both hourly and weekly rates are only 8.5 per cent above their level of a year ago.

Basic rates are a much poorer guide to how earnings are moving than the average earnings index itself. Thus, although the basic-rate figure is more recent it gives little indication of whether the slowdown indicated by the January figure has been maintained.

This is because when pay policies fail to hold they usually break down at local or plant level, away from the gaze of those who agreed the national deal.

Gold rises \$2 to 18-month peak

The price of gold rose on the European bullion markets to its highest level for 18 months. Having breached the \$150 an ounce barrier on Friday, the metal encountered fresh buying interest yesterday. It closed in London last night at \$151.875 an ounce, with a net rise on the day of \$2 (it slipped back under \$150 on Friday).

Dealers reported a firm market in the Far East, contributing to a strong opening price in Europe.

Clash over union team delays Leyland talks

By Clifford Webb

negotiations on the Leyland Cars toolroom workers dispute were still in the balance last night after more than eight hours of talks in a Birmingham hotel.

The chief stumbling block was the composition of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers' team to be chosen to deal with management.

This became clear as the three Leyland executives present—Mr Richard Perry, director of manufacturing, Mr Geoffrey Whalen, personnel director, and Mr Bill McLean, director of employee relations—spent most of the day waiting in another part of the hotel while union leaders tried to come to terms with the toolroom strike committee led by Mr Roy Fraser.

Mr Terry Duff and Mr Bill John, both national executive members were sticking to the official union line that the negotiating committee must represent all sections of the membership although this could include representatives of the toolroom strike committee.

On the day that Leyland recalled more than 40,000 workers, the company's Joint Management Council, which is comprised equally of management and union representatives, issued a warning to all 120,000 employees about the consequences of further breaks in production.

In a letter the council said: "There has been much speculation recently about the likelihood of plant closures and the loss of thousands of jobs. Let

no one doubt that it can happen. The overriding task now facing everyone employed by Leyland Cars is to prevent a drastic cutback in our operations."

The letter said the Government and the National Enterprise Board had made it clear that three objectives had to be met: 1. Normal working before the end of March. 2. Stay at work and achieve production and productivity targets. 3. Take joint steps to improve radically industrial relations.

Failure to achieve these three objectives would lead to massive job losses throughout the group, the letter said.

Components men laid off: A

Shropshire company making

components for the motor industry yesterday laid off more than 1,000 workers and put 545 more on a three-day week, as a result of the Leyland troubles.

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BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

Stock markets hate uncertainty

A stock market which had convinced itself that it could live happily for the moment with the Labour Government has been knocked off its comfortable perch. Hence, yesterday morning's sharp crack in the indices, though it is noteworthy that the early selling soon dried up.

Like everyone else, investors are now on tenterhooks pending the crucial vote of confidence tomorrow night. One can see the nervous state of mind to a number of factors, even ironically, fear of the Conservatives. For no one is yet clear about their economic and fiscal policies, let alone whether a Thatcher administration could strike the same sort of pay bargain with the workforce that the market expected this Government would ultimately have been able to agree with the unions.

But the overriding fear is that of uncertainty. Stock markets hate uncertainty, and there is going to be much more of it in the coming weeks than anyone had bargained for.

But at the end of the day, how much room for sudden manoeuvre would a new Conservative administration have? Not as much as it would like perhaps, given that the IMF loan terms still stand.

So, if much of the thinking behind the present bull market—softer interest rates, a relaxation of dividend restrictions and the like—shows the Government would be able to come up with a range that were policy-having been thrown back into the melting pot, those investors prepared to weather a few stormy weeks should be justified in doing so. If the Government fails to expect the market to be volatile, but hopefully holding a "floor" of around 400 in FT index terms.

And if Mr Callaghan's administration survives and people start talking about the inevitability of an autumn election, don't count on the market retaining the same sort of resilience as we have seen so far this year.

Monetary items

Bank views

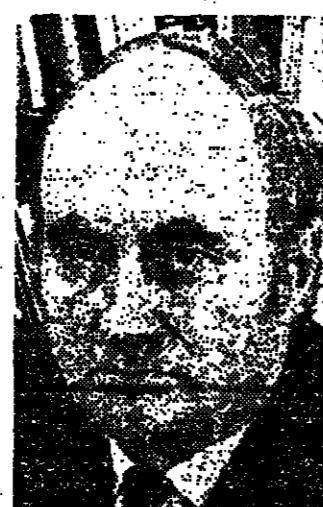
From the looks of the first report from working party K of the Inflation Accounting Standing Group, the parties now considering the application of Inflation accounting procedures to the banks find themselves awkwardly positioned between the devil and the deep blue sea.

On the one hand they have been bound—if somewhat tentatively—by their terms of reference, to consider any adjustments made to maintain the ratio of the banks' free capital to their monetary assets within the framework of EII 18. The experts' view is that the strong recovery of last year, Ferodo and British Industrial Plastics, which helped the 64 per cent increase in historic profits, were still making only a marginal real return.

That should mean that there is a considerable "wiggle" to go. The 20 per cent increase in volume in plastics followed a very depressed previous year and Ferodo should be just beginning a long haul to satisfactory profitability, while the CCA reduction in the TAC construction materials subsidiary shows the real impact of working in the public opinion. Hence the strong line taken by the four representatives from the commercial banks on the working party, in favour of a deduction for the maintenance of their "free capital", in real terms, above the line.

On the other hand any move to exclude the banks from the application of EII 18—which the working party as a whole recognises as one solution of this dilemma—is in effect going to drive a coach and horses through the concept of a unified system of inflation accounting.

Thus the working party, while recognising that there is some force in the commercial banks' contention that their net



Mr Ian Fraser, chairman of Rolls-Royce Motors, strong gains from sterling's fall.

monetary banking assets are analogous to stock in trade, also recognises that the banks' position is only unique in being at one end of the monetary item spectrum. Other businesses may wish to carry net monetary assets, or be unable for reasons of prudence to refrain from doing so; and they too might reasonably lay claim to exclusion from the exposure draft.

With the nature of the dilemma thus exposed the working party has taken the sensible course in leaving it to wait for other options. But at some point in the next few months the hard choice will have to be made, for inflation is likely to be with us for a long time yet.

Turner & Newall

CCA

SUMS

Turner & Newall has split the source of its profits further than the usual divisional analysis by detailing the returns from major subsidiaries and throwing in CCA adjustments for good measure.

The effect is to provide a much clearer picture of the improvements so far, and to show up the crude reduction in group historic profits of £3.4m to £1.1m on CCA as a rather misleading simplification.

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The CCA reduction on overseas companies and from engineering components is not nearly so great, but it is not been for the exceptional cash inflows from the sale of shares

With the FT 30 share index breaking through 420 last week and all the talk suggesting a run up towards the 450 level ahead of the Budget, Commercial Union was able to arrange underwriting for its Estates House Investment Trust bid on very tight terms. Yesterday's market relapse, however, left the underwriters' position looking rather less attractive. For though the shares came off the bottom during the afternoon to close a net 4p lower at 120p, they had earlier been down to 117p. That compares with an underwriting price of 114p, but before the offer closes the share price will also have gone ex the final dividend of 4.32p.

Business Diary: Tomorrow's men

What odds the Government's surviving tomorrow's vote of confidence—and, if they lose, what chance of cooperation with the unions?

Bumping into Jack Jones, general secretary of the Transport and General Workers' Union, and Hugh Scanlon, president of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers, at lunch yesterday, *Business Diary's* Ross Davies asked them what they thought. It was, after all, at a function to mark the publication of a new encyclopedia, the *Mitchell Beazley Joy of Knowledge Library*, and who could pretend to greater knowledge of affairs than Jones and Scanlon?

A hoarse Jack Jones croaked that he preferred to wait and see, although earlier on he had said he was worried by the loss of his voice "in case there's a general election".

Scanlon said he was a pessimist by nature and was thus prepared for the worst, by which one can only suppose that he means there would be a general election if not a subsequent victory for Mrs Thatcher.

Asked how he could possibly sell cooperation with the Government to his people when that Government was no longer Jim Callaghan's, Scanlon said that it wasn't a matter of personalities but of policies. Although one could presume what Mrs Thatcher's policies were, he for one did not really know.

Jones said that he thought they were likely to be Sir Keith Joseph's policies, rather than Mrs Thatcher's, and would involve public spending cuts more stringent by far than Labour's. To this Scanlon replied that

if there was to be a return to an unfettered market economy, with no price controls, instead of the present ineffective rôle then far enough: many people would suffer; though he thought it unlikely that they would be Jones's members or his own engineers.

Tension cable

Frank Mitchell was unimpressed by the reports yesterday that the Argentinian businessman Francisco Capozzola had confirmed "negotiations at the highest company level" to buy The Falkland Islands Company. Mitchell is managing director of the company and said he knew of no such negotiations. One of the directors is John Dowling, chief executive of the parent company, Charington Industrial Holdings.

Only yesterday morning Mitchell received a cable from yet another would-be buyer from Argentina, Cesar Cao Saravia, who has already once

been rebuffed. He affirmed that his bid, which is one of five in recent years, "involves not only commercial purposes but the firm's interests to consolidate the relationship and friendship between our countries".

Mitchell, a leading opponent of Argentinian pretensions to the Falklands, says that both Saravia and Capozzola probably have pledges of financial support from the Argentinian government. Either offer is seen by FIC as an effort further to unsettle the 2,000 islanders, persuading them to emigrate ahead of some political deal between the Argentinians and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

Any such sale of FIC, which owns nearly half of the Falklands' only substantial industry, sheep farming, would have to be cleared with the governor, James Parker, and with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office under exchange control regulations.

Even if the office, Charington and the Argentinians were party to a deal, there remains Robin Pitaluga's Falkland Islands Sheepowners' Association. It has first option to buy out FIC and, although Pitaluga says that the association does not have the money, Mitchell is confident that City and private interests would weigh in to help.

Upmarket?

Down in Dallas, Texas, where the undeniably Trammell Crow, one of America's biggest property developers, has his headquarters, the file marked "Survey Docks, London", because these do not offer permanent trade displays.

The cost of Crow's scheme

in Certain Teed and the £21m rights issue, there would have been a cash outflow last year when capital spending was only £14m.

This year £30m is planned plus a major acquisition in the United States, and although the increase in working capital is likely to be less than last year's £22m, the cash balances of £16m are going to be substantially reduced.

Given that the timing of the share sale and rights must have been at least partly fortuitous, T and N has been given the chance to do major counter-cyclical investment which current returns do not justify but which should be amply repaid when volume picks up.

Turner and Newall looks like a company on the verge of a substantial growth phase which is not discounted by the 9 per cent yield with the shares at 156p, particularly as without the exceptional pension provision last year, the dividend would have been covered on CCA earnings.

Accidents: 1976 (1975)
Capitalization £124.4m—
Net assets £71.7m (£135.2m)
Borrowings £22.0m (£47.4m)
Pre-tax profit £35.4m (£21.5m)
Earnings per share 20.28p (15.42p)

Rolls-Royce Motors

Odd man out

Rolls-Royce Motors continues to be the odd-man-out of the British-owned car industry in that it actually manages to go on notching up handsome profit increases. Spurred on by the news of progress in export markets, outside estimates have been steadily upgraded in the last month.

Like the cars themselves, however, it is evidently better to travel than arrive and after rising a tenth last week the share eased up to 76p in pre-10 per cent jump in pre-tax profits to £9.13m.

True, almost all the rise in profits came from buoyant overseas car markets, United States and the Middle East especially, with the rest of the business in diesels and aero components slipping back.

Although R-R itself is unwilling to quantify the benefits from sterling's rally, it is clear that much of the difference between earlier market estimates of £7.1m and the recent £9.13m is down to pre-tax profits.

The current year won't see the same boost from sterling but against that R-R should be getting back in 7 per cent trend growth in output after slipping back to 4 per cent its last year after industrial difficulties at its Willems plant.

So far so good. But R-R is in a cash-hungry phase at present, as evidenced by all the recent funding operations, and as much depends on the look of the balance sheet as the trading outlook.

All we know in advance of next week's accounts is that borrowings have fallen thanks to last year's rights issue, cutting interest charges £3m more along the way, while the £6m medium-term facility has not yet been touched. That coupled with cash flow and deferred tax of a similar amount has to be seen in the context of capital spending this year of £13m.

The historic p/e ratio of 8.7 could fall three points this year as the new big diesels come into their own and the new higher margin Silver Shadow model comes into full production, while the yield is now down to 7.7 per cent.

Capital: 1976 (1975)
Sales £104.5m (£97.9m)
Pre-tax profit £39.15m (£15.79m)
Earnings per share 8.75p (7.16p)
Dividend gross 5.92p (5.33p)

Inflation accounting: the anxious wait for guidance on profits tax

For some weeks now accountants and industrialists have been anxiously awaiting word from the Inland Revenue on the subject of corporation tax. A consultative document was expected first in January and then February; now the Revenue says that, although the document will be coming ultimately, it cannot say when.

Hopes in the City that the Revenue might reveal its position on the vital question of taxing profits under inflation accounting have, however, been pitched too high. Contrary to general belief, it has never been the Revenue's intention to look into this thorny issue, although some talk have been held with accountancy bodies.

Its brief has been merely to investigate how the present temporary system of tax relief for stock appreciation, introduced in the Budget of November 1976, could become part of a permanent system. To allow plenty of time for consultation the Chancellor last year extended the stock relief scheme for a further two years.

But while it may look as though the Revenue is dragging its feet, there is not much reason for urgency. If the programme for introducing inflation accounting proceeds according to plan, the first companies will begin reporting current cost results for their financial periods starting after July 1 next year. From then on the question

of stock relief will become immaterial, because taxable profits will be expressed on an entirely different basis. There is very little point in the Revenue devoting its time and effort to formalizing a system which is half way along the road to inflation accounting when the real thing is only just around the corner.

The Chancellor's commitment to a more permanent form of stock appreciation relief has already caused deep confusion. It will persist whether the next Finance Bill is introduced by Mr Healey or a Tory Chancellor. The specific problem has arisen in the complex field of deferred tax—the tax that companies ultimately may be liable to pay, but not in the immediate future.

With effect from the beginning of last year the accountancy profession introduced a new accounting standard covering deferred tax, known as SSAP 11. It required companies to state the full rate before stock relief or capital allowances.

The standard had not, however, been tailored to deal with the huge volume of deferred tax which built up as a result of stock relief. It meant that a yawning gulf was opening up between the tax companies actually paid and the amount they had to show in their accounts.

Compared with a notional tax rate of 52 per cent most companies have been paying

well under 20 per cent the rest showing up as deferred tax. In 1975-76, for instance, companies would no longer be needed, except over minor timing differences, if the tax saving was likely to continue for the foreseeable future.

But the question of how much tax companies will have to pay remains.

Indeed, at this stage there is only the haziest estimate of what will happen to profits under CCA. The accountants have openly ignored it despite the threat of an auditor's qualification to their accounts, and eventually, last October, the Consultative Committee of Accounting Bodies announced that it was postponing the standard and looking at the whole problem again.

Since then a growing number of companies have taken to adding back to profit the part of their deferred tax rate so that its effective tax rate was little changed from the present one, net of stock relief.

In some cases the effect on balance sheets and earnings has been dramatic. Both Phillips & Portland, the West Country building materials and construction group, for example, was able almost to halve its balance sheet gearing and increase its earnings per share by no less than two thirds.

Happily, current cost accounting should sweep the problem away.

Compared with a notional tax rate of 52 per cent most companies have been paying

extent companies might already be viewed as operating an effective inflation accounting system for tax purposes.

But from clear. Too few companies have yet worked out what their profits would look like under inflation accounting for it to be possible to give any serious estimates of the kind of corporation tax rate that would be necessary to maintain the present income to the Revenue.

One which has, Sheffield tool group Record Ridgway, reckoned that if it paid tax on its current cost profits equal to those on its historic cost profits it would face a corporation tax rate of no less than 77 per cent.

On a basic 52 per cent tax rate, Phillips & Drew estimated that 40 per cent of its sample would not be earning enough to cover present levels of dividends. Clearly, if the rate was pitched higher, even more companies could be in dividend trouble.

The hope has been that Mr Healey would give companies some indication of where they stand in his budget speech even if only in the form of general guidelines. He or his successor ought at least to make sure that the present Inland Revenue efforts with stock relief are more fruitfully diverted into the field of inflation accounting.

Christopher Wilkins

Eric Wigham

A timely call for synchronized pay settlements

The Confederation of British Industry is now discussing the first draft of a report intended to open a national discussion on the future form of pay bargaining. Unions affiliated to the TUC have for their part recently received a consultative document listing suggestions for changes in the TUC structure.

The two papers have no direct connection and neither makes possible proposals for immediate action. That of the CBI, after it had been to its Employment Policies Committee, will be debated within the organization as a preliminary to talks with the TUC and the government and within the National Economic Development Council. The aim is to present it at the CBI's council meeting at the end of next month.

That of the TUC will be discussed at a special conference of two representatives from each union on April 28. In the light of that discussion the general council will prepare proposals for the annual congress in September.

The papers have this in common: both consider what can best be done to remedy defects in the present system of wage settlement. The CBI is tackling basic questions over the widest possible field; the TUC is facing criticisms from a number of unions of the way it handles pay negotiations with the Government.

The CBI's objective is to find something better than the present alternation of restrictive incomes policies followed by an explosion and a few years of "grab-by-all", leading to economic crisis and yet another incomes policy.

The confederation's 60-page document covers the relationship of pay policy to other elements in economic policy such as taxation, the advantages of centralized and decentralized systems, the role of the Government and the CBI and TUC, implications for the social security system, the possibility of new institutions to deal with relative bargaining and employee participation, and the possible synchronization of pay settlements.

It is the most fruitful set of proposals that has come out of any trade union movement in any country at any time", said George Woodcock, who was the TUC general secretary at the time—but little of it stuck.

Nothing more has been heard from the TUC of "simultaneous and coordination of wage claims", as Mr Woodcock called it. The TUC's members have talked about it among themselves from time to time, but considered the difficulties of accommodating different bargaining structures and timetables greater than the possible advantages.

Yet there is a strong case to be made for Mr Woodcock's view that synchronization would be a big influence in regulating the "unregulated jungle of wage negotiations".

It would do a great deal more than stop leapfrogging in major claims, which is probably what attracts employers most. Some of them are more interested in synchronization of local claims within a company or industry. Presenting claims at various periods of the year, as at present,

Le Monde
THE TIMES
DIE WELT

Europa

Community's big four facing lengthy convalescence

Recovery is under way, but it will be some time before there is a complete return to health. This could be said to summarize the economic forecasts for the four larger countries of the European Community.

The barometer of opinion shows widely differing readings in every country, which merely demonstrates how uncertain the estimates are.

One consequence of this is the wide range of growth seen for this year, which cannot be explained entirely by the differing bias of the forecasters. Increases in gross national product in West Germany—to give just one example—range from 3 to 6 per cent.

The latest forecasts are slightly lower than those of last month. The European Commission has drawn its own conclusions from this and revised its economic guideline for 1977 down from 4 to 3½ per cent, sufficient to put the Community on a path for full employment.

For this reason the prognosis (particularly from government sources) are now more closely linked than before with a remedy, in other words with proposals for additional stimulation of growth.

WEST GERMANY: Despite continuing high unemployment figures, the federal government is still refraining from crisis measures, although most experts believe that its goal of getting unemployment down to

an annual average of 850,000 will be almost impossible. The government is sticking to its forecast of 5 per cent growth, despite high wage settlements, which will depress corporate profitability. Additional measures are only likely to be considered if growth remains substantially below the figure during the course of the year.

BRITAIN: The British are to the fore among those urging Bonn to take some action, for despite spare capacity the British Government's hands are tied, as far as expansion is concerned, by the country's undertakings to the International Monetary Fund. For this reason the forecasts of growth are so low that they would normally be described as stagnation.

British hopes are placed on North Sea oil and exports. Owing to the fall in the pound, British goods have become competitive, in spite of large price rises.

FRANCE: Paris is not off-

Hans-Jürgen Mahnke

ECONOMIC FORECASTS FOR 1977						
% Change	West Germany	France	United Kingdom	Italy	Japan	USA
Gross national product	4.5	3	-0.5	0	8.7	4.2
Private consumption	4.5	3	-0.5	-1.5	13.7	10.5
Investment in plant and machinery	6.0	1.5	-2.5	-1.0	12.2	10.4
Exports	9.0	7.25	-0.5	-1.0	11.9	—
Imports	9.0	6.0	3.2	-1.0	16.1	—
Consumer price Index	4.0	8.75	14.2	20	7.7	—
Wages	over 8	—	12.0	21-22	—	—
Unemployment (000)	950	—	1500	—	1200-1300	7.5%

(1) Institut für Wirtschaftsforschung, Munich (February)
(2) OECD
(3) National Institute of Economic and Social Research (March)
(4) Government
(5) Government economic planning agency (January), for fiscal year March 30 to
(6) Manufacturers Hanover Trust (March), nominal rates of change
(7) No figures available

inflationary pressure in Bonn, but the French government is another that would be glad to see its largest foreign customer doing more for imports. The government has recently revised its growth forecasts downward, from 4.8 to 3.5 per cent. Contrary to expectations by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development the French hope to get their inflation rate down as low as 7.5 per cent. Industrial production is not likely to begin rising again until the second half of the year.

ITALY: In Italy things are going better than expected and better than the government deserves. Instead of the zero growth prediction, other forecasters consider an increase of 2 per cent in gross national product possible this year. The federation of industries thinks a 3 per cent growth in industrial production probable in the second quarter.

FRANCE: Paris is not off-

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in the gilt-edged market, most of the selling was concentrated at the short end, where it was described as "quite heavy". In spite of an attempted lunchtime rally, most "shorts" closed a full point lower. "Long" dates saw less business and by the end had managed to halve earlier losses which had stretched up to a full point.

The political uncertainty hit nationalization stocks like Swan Hunter, off 8s to 82s, Yarrow

10p to 70p. But Hawker Siddeley held up comparatively well with a drop of just 2p to 514p.

The industrial leaders were hard hit in light trading. Among the worst were Unilever

14p to 46p, Beecham 9p to 43p, ICI 9p to 34p and Fisons 6p to 34p.

Selling was not heavy and mainly professional, but some large and widespread losses were recorded and by the close, the FT index stood 14.1 lower at 414.4 and at the bottom. Bargain-hunting and news that a leading firm of bookmakers had shortened their odds on a Government victory had brought a brief rally around lunchtime, but it was not sustained.

ITALY: In Italy things are going better than expected and better than the government deserves. Instead of the zero growth prediction, other forecasters consider an increase of 2 per cent in gross national product possible this year. The original profit target was set at £48m, against £46.6m, but some are now looking for a figure between £52m and £54m. The shares held up well at 188p.

With the benefits of price increases now coming through, the market has raised its expectations from Associated Portland Cement, due to report preliminary figures today. The original profit target was set at £48m, against £46.6m, but some are now looking for a figure between £52m and £54m. The shares held up well at 188p.

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Dividends in this table are shown net of tax on a per share basis. Elsewhere in Business News dividends are shown on a gross basis. To obtain gross multiply the net dividend by 1.54. *On income shares. +On capital shares. +Adjusted for scrip.

18p to 216p and British Home Stores down 6p to 179p.

In bids, Shellshark Price were marked up 4p to 44p on the terms from Bowater, while Trust & Agency was another 11p on 15p, down 5p, while the share of Lucas being lowered 9p to 249p and Smiths Industries 5p to 22p. Better-than-expected figures had Rolls-Royce just a penny off at 764p, a solid performance on the day.

The prospect of Japanese competition did nothing for EMI which shed 5p to 216p, while other electrics to lose ground were GEC 7p to 179p and International Computers which ended 5p lower at 200p. Standing out against the trend was Rank which rose 4p to 190p.

After last week's strong rise, which sprang from the denied rumour that it was about to sell off its Formica business, De La Rue succumbed to profit-taking, dropping 15p to 345p. Elsewhere in papers, Bowater gave up 10p, for a close of 190p.

Shares, strong of late on tax concession hopes, were not immune to the general slide, though Motherwell did manage to hold on to 25p. But others fell heavily with GUS "A" off 15p to 253p.

In this market, Turnbull Scott Shipping ended 4p up to 120p at 253p.

After hours, Cavenham spurted 10p on talk that Sir James Goldsmith was talking to Prudential Assurance, a major shareholder.

London United Investments held steady at 75p after the denial of a bid approach.

Equity turnover on March 18 was £75.15m (18,308 bargains).

According to Exchange Telegraph, active stocks yesterday were Distillers, R.A.T. Ind., B.A.T. Dfd., GEC flooring rate notes, Lucas, G.M.H., Marks & Spencer, Courtaulds, Dunlop, Reed, Shell, B.P., I.C.I., Swan Hunter, Yarrow, Hawthorn Leslie, James Finlay, McLeod Russel, Tace, Trust & Agency, Warren Holdings, De La Rue, Rolls-Royce and Wm. Press.

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Textiles
all the rage
in the Low
Bonar camp

FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Diversity and brolly upturn give Lawtex a good half

By Ashley Draker

Though the opening quarter inevitably was affected by last year's drought, business picked up later at Lawtex to give a first-half pre-tax profit to December 25 of £21,000, against only £13,000. The board is resuming interim payments with 2.5p gross.

Sales of this Manchester-based clothing and umbrella manufacturer increased 47 per cent to £4.5m. The umbrella division has been working to full capacity, sales have been restored to former levels, and a good profit has been contributed from this traditional side.

At the same time the planned expansion of the other areas of the business in wear-ware, leisure and baby wear means that some 80 per cent of group trade

ing is now independent of weather vagaries. All productive capacity in its various sectors is being fully used; any shortfall has been made good by sub-contracting.

For the final stage to June 30, the directors say that strong order-books in all divisions reflect a continuous high demand.

Without assuming a repeat performance of the opening half, they look to a good outcome for the full year. The company's best-ever was in 1973-74 - at £401,000 pre-tax.

Though umbrellas were the basis of Lawtex's growth, turnover for the full year is unlikely to exceed much more than 20 per cent of the total against 50 per cent four years ago. But umbrellas still hold a "very substantial" market share.

EPICURE HOLDINGS
Turnover for half-year to December 31 down from £716,000 to £613,000. Pre-tax profit of £40,000, against loss of £10,000. No tax (same).

WHATLINGS
Prices now obtainable may result in turnover not keeping pace with inflation. But results for first months of current year are already ahead of last year, reports Mr James Robertson, chairman.

COMINED ENGLISH
Comined English Stores, the listed concern in The Netherlands, agreed to acquire Barclay's, a company established in Utrecht for a cash consideration of 1.5m fl (£375,000).

TRIANGO GROUP
Sales up from £332,000 to £1.27m for half-year to June 30. Pre-tax profits jumped from £13,000 to £60,000. Board confident progress will be sustained. No interim dividend (same). Board has power to declare one-half of dividend on participating preference until year's results are available.

HARRISONS MALAYSIAN INVESTMENT
Trust advised that Mr P. J. Neill, a Yorkspur director, has increased his holding to 10,000 shares by buying 3,500 on March 15.

SIDNEY C. BANKS
Turnover for half-year to January 31 climbed from £2.55m to £5.1m. Pre-tax profit of £22,000, against loss of £7,000. No interim payment (same). Board feels conditions will continue to be difficult in short-term and forecast a small loss by end of June, 1977.

PEARSON LONGMAN
Pearson Longman subsidiary, Westminster Press, is to acquire for a nominal consideration Thomson Organisation's 50 per cent interest in Evening Mail, Slough.

BRITALPEN-STANDARD
Chairman of Britalpen has written to the ordinary shareholders of Standard Trust urging them to accept the offer by Britalpen which, it is stated, will under no circumstances be breached. Chairman has also written to preference holders of Standard.

Ldn & European, New Bridge link-up talks

Market expectations earlier this month that London & European Group might soon have a change of control were reinforced yesterday. The company, formerly London & European Securities, confirmed that it is holding discussions with New Bridge Holdings, "which may lead to a closer relationship" between the two.

London & European's market value is about £1.85m. One of the favourites of former years, it is in property, investment and dealing and merchant banking. Dublin-based New Bridge Holdings is in a similar line of share dealing and property owning.

At half-time in October London & European saw a pre-tax profit of £498,000 give way to a loss of £570,000. The interim dividend was passed and a payment for the full year also made. There is a change of tactics, it was then pulling out of investment banking and concentrating on the profitable property division.

First Fortune backs Moorgate Merc

Although it missed the Bank of England's "lifeboat" when it became a victim of the 1973 financial crisis, the Moorgate Mercantile instalment credit group has now been rescued by First Fortune.

First Fortune has made £1.8m available to the group secured on its debenture assets and undertakings.

Since June, 1974, MM has been working under a scheme of arrangement set up by Peat Marwick Mitchell and a creditors' committee. Peat introduced MM to First Fortune in 1975 and the board was impressed by MM's management.

Scheme creditors have been discharged and the scheme

ended. The board aims to step up business and ultimately seek readmission to the Stock Exchange List.

Graff has 93 pc of Sandstar

Holding now at least 93.1 per cent of the equity of Sandstar, Graff Diamonds announces an extension to April 7 of its 28p a share offer. Sandstar, a private company, is owned by Mr Laurence Graff, chairman of Graff Diamonds, and his wife. To date some 223 shareholders have taken advantage of these arrangements for some 1.18m shares.

The offer at 28p was a fresh plan initiated in February to replace the compulsory acquisition scheme for the minority holdings. Instead there was an unconditional undertaking by Sandstar to buy on equivalent terms for a 21-day period any shares which holders wished to sell.

Miln prunes losses

After its record outturn for 1975-76, when pre-tax profits rose to £572,000, the Miln Marsters Group has reduced its loss for the six months to November 30 from an abnormal £242,000 to £125,000. Turnover of this plant-breeder and seed specialist swelled from £1.34m to £2.25m.

Crop yields were lower because of the very dry conditions of 1976, and a "satisfactory" year is expected and the board expects to pay the maximum for the year. Meanwhile the dividend is raised from 3.25p to 3.85p gross.

Bibby medical foray

In an agreed deal animal feeds group J. Bibby has bought a 20 per cent stake in private



Mr Laurence Graff, chairman of Graff Diamonds.

A spokesman for Baring Brothers, the issuing house, said that it was common with a Eurobond issue for the rates and size to be adjusted when there was heavy demand.

Jamesons keep up rapid growth

The Jamesons Chocolate confectionery group hotted up the pace in the second half-year, and ends 1976 with a 70 per cent rise in profits to £594,000 before tax. Turnover went up from £3.6m to £4.5m.

The group (which is controlled by the Whitefield family and in which Trebor-Sharp hold 15 per cent) is raising its dividend from 4.06p to 4.48p gross out of earnings a share of 11p (6.3p).

The first half of the year took profits up 62 per cent to £255,000 while the second half brought a rise of 76 per cent to £339,000.

Bejam plant sale eliminates loans

Bejam Group has agreed to sell to a major pension fund its recently-built cold-store building at Peterborough, but Bejam retains the plant, machinery and insulation.

The sale is £850,000 cash, about the cost of the assets involved. The deal is coupled with a lease-back arrangement for a term of 50 years on a full repairing and insurance basis at a rent of £19,000 yearly.

With these proceeds, and some £25,000 from the proposed sale of the assets of Ely Farms, Bejam intends to repay the medium-term bank loan of £1m. The long-term mortgage loans will be eliminated, and there will then be no outstanding long or medium-term loans.

Foreign Exchange

Sterling recovered 20 basis points from the lower point touched during yesterday's trading on the foreign exchanges. It closed with a net gain against the dollar of 5 points, at \$1.7175.

The yen eased to a late trading level of 279.10-30 against the dollar.

The yen had earlier advanced strongly on speculation that Japan might be invited to participate in the world economic summit in Tokyo as a means of helping the world recovery. The pound's index closed at 61.8 against 61.9 on Friday.

Gold rose \$2.00 an ounce, to \$151.875.

Spot Position of Sterling

Market rates (4.25p range) 1 month 3 months

New York \$1.7165-7185 1.7175-1.7182

London £1.3045-50 1.3045-50

American £1.3045-50 1.3045-50

Brussels £2.00-2.03 2.00-2.03

Frankfurt 4.10p-4.12p 4.10p-4.12p

Hamburg 1.17-1.18 1.17-1.18

Milan 1.50-1.51 1.50-1.51

Paris 8.25-8.27 8.25-8.27

Tokyo 125-127 125-127

Vienna 20.00-20.10 20.00-20.10

The pound's effective rate was 61.8 per cent of Friday's value.

1 month 11.20p 11.18-11.19p

2 months 11.04p 11.02-11.03p

3 months 11.00p 10.98-11.01p

Prime Bank Bills (4.25p range) 1 month 3 months

New York 1.7165-7185 1.7175-1.7182

London £1.3045-50 1.3045-50

Overnight 10.10p 10.09-10.10p

Week 10.14p 10.13-10.14p

2 weeks 10.16p 10.15-10.16p

Month 10.18p 10.17-10.18p

Forward Levels

1 month 11.04p 11.02-11.04p

2 months 11.00p 10.98-11.01p

3 months 11.00p 10.98-11.01p

Prime Bank Bills (4.25p range) 1 month 3 months

New York 1.7165-7185 1.7175-1.7182

London £1.3045-50 1.3045-50

Overnight 10.10p 10.09-10.10p

Week 10.14p 10.13-10.14p

2 weeks 10.16p 10.15-10.16p

Month 10.18p 10.17-10.18p

Forward Market (4.25p range) 1 month 3 months

New York 1.7165-7185 1.7175-1.7182

London £1.3045-50 1.3045-50

Overnight 10.10p 10.09-10.10p

Week 10.14p 10.13-10.14p

2 weeks 10.16p 10.15-10.16p

Month 10.18p 10.17-10.18p

Gold

1 month 10.10p 10.09-10.10p

2 months 10.14p 10.13-10.14p

3 months 10.18p 10.17-10.18p

Local Authorised Markets 1 month 10.10p 10.09-10.10p

2 months 10.14p 10.13-10.14p

3 months 10.18p 10.17-10.18p

Overnight 10.10p 10.09-10.10p

Week 10.14p 10.13-10.14p

2 weeks 10.16p 10.15-10.16p

Month 10.18p 10.17-10.18p

DM = Deutschland issue.

Source: Kidder, Peabody Securities.

London.

Finance House Base Rate 13%

B Elliott names deputy chairman

Mr H. A. Wingrove has become vice-president and general manager of the aviation division of Sanderson Industries Inc, the North American subsidiary of British Industries.

Mr L. J. Clarke, finance director of Mirror Group News, is to retire for health reasons on August 31 and will be succeeded by Mr L. K. Guest, chairman of Reed International.

Mr J. E. Old, finance director of The Wall Paper Manufacturers, is to become financial controller on September 1.

Mr D. T. Hall has been made managing director of Alcan Aluminium (UK) and chairman of Alcan Booth Industries also becomes managing director of that subsidiary, from May 1. This follows the appointment of Mr David Morton as vice-president, corporate planning, of Alcan International.

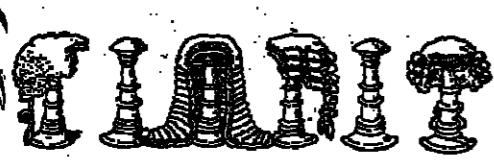
Mr B. Cordrey and Mr P. D. Finch will be joining the partners.

PATAFING RUBBER
Patafing Rubber Estates (subsidiary of Harrisons Malaysian Investment) reported turnover up from £2.17m to £4.12m.

EDDIE ALLEN AEREX
Eddie Allen Aerex, Mr David Tiplady and Mr David Phillips also join the board. Mr Tiplady becomes chairman.

Mr J. Collinson joins the partners.

TOYOTA MOTOR
Toyota Motor Europe Ltd, 1982-83, 1983-84, 1984-85, 1985-86, 1986-87, 1987-88, 1988-89, 1989-90, 1990-91, 1991-92, 1992-93, 1993-94, 1994-95, 1995-96, 1996-97, 1997-98, 1998-99, 1999-2000, 2000-2001, 2001-2002, 2002-2003, 2003-2004, 2004-2005, 2005-2006, 2006-2007, 2007-2008, 2008-2



Legal appointments

Company Legal Adviser

C. £8,500

Your brief will be to provide a comprehensive advisory service to fellow managers in all sectors of this major business systems organisation; and to ensure that all statutory and secretarial obligations are met. You will be called upon to contribute effectively in a wide range of situations so a shrewd commercial awareness will be just as much in demand as professional expertise.

To apply you should have at least four years broadly-based experience in a commercial company's legal department, and you might equally well be a qualified lawyer, a law graduate or a

qualified secretary with a strong legal bias. An additional responsibility will be for the Pensions and Insurance function, so some relevant knowledge is desirable. The preferred age is 30-40 and the location Central London.

(Ref. W4820/T)

REPLIES will be forwarded direct, unopened and in confidence to our Security Manager listing companies to which they may not be sent. They should include comprehensive career details, not refer to previous correspondence with PA and quote the reference on the envelope.

PA Advertising

Hyde Park House, 60a Knightsbridge, London SW1X 7LE. Tel: 01-235 6060 Telex: 27874



A member of PA International

Young Solicitor

Bird & Bird of London seek a young solicitor to join their staff, initially for secondment to work with the resident partner in the offices of their associate firm of Bird Hill & Co. in Amsterdam, a practice carried on jointly with Hill & Parks of Norwich.

This is a most attractive proposition for a young solicitor with one or two years post-qualified commercial experience to work on the continent and widen his experience through the provision of a broad legal service mostly for British and American clients. It is presently envisaged that secondment would last for a year or so, after which a return to Gray's Inn would be arranged.

Good salary with cost of living and accommodation allowance while abroad.

Applicants should please write in confidence to M. Lomas or telephone for a personal history form quoting reference L/935/1.

Amsterdam

The P-E Consulting Group Appointments Division
Park House, Egham, Surrey TW20 0HW. Tel: Egham 4411

NEWSPAPER LAWYER

LAWYER—preferably not less than 10 years' experience since admission or call required for large newspaper group. Salary according to experience. Pension scheme.

Apply Legal Manager, Mirror Group Newspapers Ltd., Holborn Circus, London EC1P 1DQ.

BERWIN LEIGHTON

seek a prospective junior litigation partner and invite applications from young Solicitors with at least two years post-qualification experience in commercial litigation. Applications to:

E. SIDLEY, Esq.,
Berwin Leighton,
Adelaide House, London Bridge,
London EC4R 9HA

Solicitor

London

With a view to a salaried partnership within a year, an expanding firm with a continental office requires a commercial solicitor having several year's post qualification company/commercial experience.

Our clients are looking for an enthusiastic and competent person, preferably aged 28-34, with the confidence and ability to give sound legal and practical advice and to draft agreements to cover commercial arrangements of all kinds including international licensing and joint ventures. The ability to deal directly and independently with clients and management at all levels is an important quality. Starting salary is negotiable within the range quoted depending on experience.

Applicants of either sex should write in confidence to M. Lomas, or telephone for a personal history form quoting reference L/936/1.



P-E Consulting Group Limited Appointments Division
Park House, Egham, Surrey TW20 0HW. Tel: Egham 4411

Secretarial and Non-secretarial Appointments also on page 28

SECRETARIAL

REGENT STREET SOLICITORS

Young, commercially minded solicitors required. Good audio, telephone, shorthand, and client contact, as good as possible, and telephone manner essential.

Hours: flexible, pay £1.60 per hour. Free lunches. Pleasant offices.

Legal expenses are essential but expenses, intelligence and friendliness are a must.

HOTELS

Be responsible for recruiting staff for this large hotel group of 100 hotels in the U.K. Eventually have behind you a large staff and involve yourself in employee development, training, accident and sickness, lunches, hotel discounts, good relations with the public, etc. Director—75, 051, DRAHAN PERSONNEL (Agency). 225 Regent Street, W.1.

MEDICAL EDUCATION £3,200

Become involved in organising courses, seminars and conferences, and in the administration and marketing of these. Use your organisational ability to gain a position in a lively, friendly office. Director—75, 051, DRAHAN PERSONNEL (Agency). 225 Regent Street, W.1.

P.A.—Private company. Mayfair. Interested in foreign language. £3,200. Tel: 01-730 9018.

CITY MERCHANT BANKER needs intelligent P.A./Sec. 25+. sound financial sense, good organisational and writing ability. Good telephone manner. Director—75, 051, DRAHAN PERSONNEL (Agency). 225 Regent Street, W.1.

SECRETARIAL

THE DESIGN COUNCIL PRESS OFFICE

Secretary required for Senior Press Officer and Head of Press Department dealing with press reviews, reception, general office work and public relations.

Applicants should be aged 20-40 years. Candidates include flexible working hours, 10% bonus on salary, 25 days' annual leave, 22.675 p.c. bonus in £1,225.

Please apply to Mrs Ward, 01-837 8000, ext. 88, after 9.30 a.m.

TELEVISION

Opportunity to attend exhibitions, fairs with television contractors and advertising agencies. Good organisational, shorthand and air time experience essential.

Applicants should be aged 20-40 years. Candidates include flexible working hours, 10% bonus on salary, 25 days' annual leave, 22.675 p.c. bonus in £1,225.

Please apply to Mrs Ward, 01-837 8000, ext. 88, after 9.30 a.m.

DEVELOP NEW POSITION

Learn about the company and become responsible for a mine in Kenya. Order all their equipment, hire labour, look after the mine, organise lorries and air freight, etc. Good organisational and secretarial experience.

Use your secretarial and organisational skills to work in a challenging environment. Director—75, 051, DRAHAN PERSONNEL (Agency). 225 Regent Street, W.1.

SECRETARIAL

USE YOUR SOCIAL SENSE AT UP TO £3,500!

Charming, but somewhat volatile, executive at well-known firm of solicitors. Consultant needs a mature personality with sound organisational and secretarial experience.

Applicants should be aged 20-40 years. Candidates include flexible working hours, 10% bonus on salary, 25 days' annual leave, 22.675 p.c. bonus in £1,225.

Please apply to Mrs Ward, 01-837 8000, ext. 88, after 9.30 a.m.

PERSONNEL ASSISTANT/ FASHION/ DISCOUNTS

Opportunity to attend exhibitions, fairs with television contractors and advertising agencies. Good organisational, shorthand and air time experience essential.

Applicants should be aged 20-40 years. Candidates include flexible working hours, 10% bonus on salary, 25 days' annual leave, 22.675 p.c. bonus in £1,225.

Please apply to Mrs Ward, 01-837 8000, ext. 88, after 9.30 a.m.

EXCEPTIONAL SECRETARIAL

Secretary required for a mine in Kenya. Order all their equipment, hire labour, look after the mine, organise lorries and air freight, etc. Good organisational and secretarial experience.

Use your secretarial and organisational skills to work in a challenging environment. Director—75, 051, DRAHAN PERSONNEL (Agency). 225 Regent Street, W.1.

SECRETARIAL

P.A. TO PERSONNEL OFFICER

Secretary with mature outgoing personality who can cope under pressure. Excellent promotion opportunities. Good organisational and secretarial experience.

Applicants should be aged 20-40 years. Candidates include flexible working hours, 10% bonus on salary, 25 days' annual leave, 22.675 p.c. bonus in £1,225.

Please apply to Mrs Ward, 01-837 8000, ext. 88, after 9.30 a.m.

SECRETARY

to drive a car, compose own letters, be good at figures.

Age 21-30.

DIAL 493 2905

DON'T SPEAK JUST LISTEN

Then set up conferences for speakers, decide on agenda, etc.

Age 21-30.

DIAL 493 2905

PRIVATE HOUSE, W.8 PART-TIME SEC/ASSISTANT

(Experienced) but shorthand not necessary, mostly domestic duties, some evenings, very flexible, and early arrangements.

TEL: 01-602 0873/3609

LIKE ORGANISING?

Then set up conferences for speakers, decide on agenda, etc.

Age 21-30.

DIAL 493 2905

SECRETARIAL

SECRETARIAL

SECRETARIAL

SECRETARIAL

SECRETARIAL

SECRETARIAL

PART-TIME STENOGRAPHER

Secretary required for a firm of solicitors in the West Kensington area to work in private house.

3 mornings of 3 hours per week.

TEL: 01-897 5323

PRIVATE HOUSE, W.8 PART-TIME SEC/ASSISTANT

(Experienced) but shorthand not necessary, mostly domestic duties, some evenings, very flexible, and early arrangements.

TEL: 01-602 0873/3609

SOLICITORS, W.I.

require young shorthand secretary with good speed to help with correspondence.

Age 21-30.

DIAL 493 2905

EXCEPTIONAL SECRETARIAL

Secretary required for a

mine in Kenya.

Order all their equipment, hire labour, look after the mine, organise lorries and air freight, etc.

Use your secretarial and organisational skills to work in a challenging environment. Director—75, 051, DRAHAN PERSONNEL (Agency). 225 Regent Street, W.1.

Appointments Vacant also on page 10

GENERAL VACANCIES

CHIEF FIELD ENGINEER SAUDI ARABIA

Applications are invited for the post of Chief Field Engineer for an engineering and architectural practice in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. The successful candidate will handle the site supervisory practice of the civil, main and secondary site engineers and undertake supervision duties himself.

Projects include commercial, residential and industrial schemes as well as the development of airports.

Candidates should be chartered engineers of about 10 years' experience, principally overseas. Experience with oil/gas projects is preferred, but candidates with appropriate site experience with contractors will be considered.

The conditions of service include two return journeys to home country per year. The salary offered is SR60,000 p.a. plus substance and initial housing allowance. A contract period of engagement will be considered. Arrangements for married applicants would be negotiated.

Write with brief details of career to date, family names of companies which you do not want your applications to be forwarded to: Dept. LAC/T22, c/o Astral Recruitment Association, Astral House, 17-19 Maddox Street, London W1X 0EY.

FRENCH RIVERIA. Author of book published in several countries, including UK, wishes to continue his work of consultation on the Côte d'Azur. Norman M. W. Lee, 11 Nelson Place, London, W1.

GENERAL VACANCIES

ARCHITECTS Saudi Arabia

Two-year contracts. Realistic salaries.

Project Architect with strong experience in Specification Preparation.

DIHHRAN

Project Architect for General Practice.

Applicants should have 6-8 years professional experience and should forward personal details to:

Dept. LAC/T22, ASTRAL RECRUITMENT ASSOCIATES, Astral House, 17-19 Maddox Street, London W1X 0EY.

AGENCY NEGOTIATORS

Several challenging and rewarding positions are currently available in our Hemsworth and Bromley offices. If you have had a Design or Construction background and are prepared to be involved with a busy team of recruiters contact:

MR. H. E. SMITH,
S. & W. SERVICES,
26a HIGH STREET, HEMSWORTH,
TEL. 01-572 7363.

Interested in how business works?

As an Inspector of Taxes you never stop learning about how your industrial and commercial 'clients' operate. The more you find out about the cut-throat competition of small businesses in the local High Street or about the subtleties of financing multi-national companies, the better equipped you become to use your reasoning powers and the intensive training in law and accountancy you receive – to arrive at a proper assessment of the liabilities involved.

As an Inspector you are responsible for determining the tax liability of individuals and of companies large and small. You deal personally with the more complex or contentious cases, and these will involve direct contact with tax payers and their professional advisers.

During your career you could take charge of the tax affairs of an entire district enjoying wide powers of discretion. You may also spend periods on more specialised aspects of taxation and acquire an enviable professional expertise – in itself a valuable career asset.

Qualifications: Under 32. And

Secretarial and Non-secretarial Appointments also on page 27

All recruitment advertisements on this page are open to both male and female applicants.

NON-SECRETARIAL

BUYING ASSISTANT

This is an opportunity for a person aged 20/25 with ability, tact and drive to join a progressive Marketing Department. The successful applicant will handle telephone queries, liaise with suppliers, assist Branches with supply problems and handle customer queries. A high level education and previous office/administrative experience are essential. Apply to Purchasing Station, 14 Hobart Place, London, SW1 on 01-738 3400, ext 262.

Please apply to Miss D. Reaney,

THE BOOKS COMPANY,
69/79 Fulham High Street, Fulham, S.W.8.

Telephone: 731 1313.

LIBRARIAN

We are a large firm of stockbrokers with modern offices in London Wall. We are seeking a Librarian with some supervisory experience. The ideal candidate will be aged 25 or over.

We offer competitive salary, bonus, 40p Luncheon Vouchers, 4 weeks annual holiday and contributory pension scheme. Please apply in writing to the Staff Manager,

MESSRS. PHILLIPS & DREW,
Lee House, London Wall, London EC2Y 5AP.

SHOWROOM RECEPTIONIST/ RETAIL SALES ASSISTANT

We are looking for a presentable Receptionist to assist the Showroom Manager and a team of representatives in our 41 wholesale showroom.

The successful applicant would also act as a mobile sales assistant in the showroom during the 20 week off-peak season. Previous experience of selling high quality ladies' fashions would be an advantage.

In return we offer a competitive salary, retail staff wear, clothes allowance, generous personal discount, subsidised staff restaurant and 4 weeks holiday after one year's service.

To find out more phone Anne Power on 01-734 8211 Extension 233.

JAEGER

Typist/Receptionist

London branch of Spanish Bank PLC

Fluent Spanish and English essential, shorthand an advantage, user benefits. Salary approximately £3,000.

Tel: 588 0181

Miss Graham

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT, £3,100 + PROFIT SHARE IN CITY

Collects fascinating figures of debts.

DIAL 409 2625

DON'T SPEAK

JUST LISTEN

"MONSOON"

REQUIRES

ASSISTANTS

Good positions offered to responsible persons. £3,000 p.a. plus generous commission and profit share allowance. Must be over 21.

Phone: 589 9906

(mornings)

WEST END ADVERTISING AGENCY RECEPTIONIST/TYPEWRITER

Some experience in supervising reception areas, fluent in Spanish and spoken English. Good accurate typing required. Good telephone manner. Ring Denise Sleath, 834 9824. Between 11 a.m. and 4 p.m.

ASSISTANT TO THE SECRETARY

Small but expanding Institute. Flexible and imaginative person with experience in office work, drafting and good typing. Starting at £2,250. Apply to Mrs. G. G. G. Gurney, 107 Gurneyway, London, W2 (01-229 4426).

TIME OFF seeks enthusiastic Receptionist

Small efficient Bilingual Reception Office. Some typing and spoken English required. Good telephone manner. Ring Denise Sleath, 834 9824. Between 11 a.m. and 4 p.m.

FEMALE NEGOTIATOR

With bright personality, some experience in End Estate Agency. Some experience in negotiations. Salary negotiable for someone with drive and initiative. Call 267 4597, day evenings.

EXPERIENCED NEGOTIATOR

Fast expanding accommodation agency in W.14. Salary £2,100 is £2,000 according to experience. Telephone 01-383 7776.

ENERGETIC full-time Receptionist

Required for a busy office in W.14. Salary £2,100 is £2,000 according to experience. Telephone 01-383 7776.

SECRETARIAL

Graduate College LEAVER to work as an Executive Assistant in the Public Affairs Department of J. Worldwide. You must have the ability to write clear concise reports, have good computer skills and be motivated.

JOYCE GUINNESS BUREAU 21 BROMPTON ARCADE KNIGHTSBRIDGE, S.W.1. Tel: 01-580 2151. Situated on Knightsbridge Tube Station. Seats 84. ext 110. W.C.2. 01-580 2152. ext 110. ext 111. ext 112. ext 113. ext 114. ext 115. ext 116. ext 117. ext 118. ext 119. ext 120. ext 121. ext 122. ext 123. ext 124. ext 125. ext 126. ext 127. ext 128. ext 129. ext 130. ext 131. ext 132. ext 133. ext 134. ext 135. ext 136. ext 137. ext 138. ext 139. ext 140. ext 141. ext 142. ext 143. ext 144. ext 145. ext 146. ext 147. ext 148. ext 149. ext 150. ext 151. ext 152. ext 153. ext 154. ext 155. ext 156. ext 157. ext 158. ext 159. ext 160. ext 161. ext 162. ext 163. ext 164. ext 165. ext 166. ext 167. ext 168. ext 169. ext 170. ext 171. ext 172. ext 173. ext 174. ext 175. ext 176. ext 177. ext 178. ext 179. ext 180. ext 181. ext 182. ext 183. ext 184. ext 185. ext 186. ext 187. ext 188. ext 189. ext 190. ext 191. ext 192. ext 193. ext 194. ext 195. ext 196. ext 197. ext 198. ext 199. ext 200. ext 201. ext 202. ext 203. ext 204. ext 205. ext 206. ext 207. ext 208. ext 209. ext 210. ext 211. ext 212. ext 213. ext 214. ext 215. ext 216. ext 217. ext 218. 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The Times

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PLEASE CHECK YOUR ADVERTISING COPY FOR THE DAY OF ADVERTISING. Each and every copy of the Times and its provided advertisements are handled and checked for errors. If you find any therefore that you check your copy and if you can correct and re-enter it to the Classified News department immediately by 12 noon Saturday (01-8300). We regret that we cannot accept any copy more than one day's insertion if you do not.

Jesus is also able to save us from the sins we have committed through him. He is always ready to plead on our behalf. (1 John 2:25)

BIRTHS

ALBUM—On 20th March, at Linda's, St. Luke's Hospital, London, to Elizabeth and Peter, a son and Jane.

BOTHAM—On 19th March, to Colin and Sally daughter, Elizabeth Ann, 19th March, 1977, to Elizabeth Ann, on her birthday—son Robert.

BURTON—On 21st March at Bolton, to Margaret and John, a son, Michael.

CARRIE and Peter—a daughter at Linda's, and Peter at Linda's.

CHURCHILL—On 19th March, to Christopher and Patricia, a son, James Michael.

CLIFFORD—On 20th March, to Gordon and Peter—a daughter at Linda's.

DORRIS—On 19th March, at Elizabeth and Peter's daughter, Elizabeth.

ETHERINGTON—On 19th March, at Queen Charlotte's, Hamerton, to John and Barbara, a son, Richard.

GREEN—On 20th March, to Sally and John, a son, James Michael.

HARRIS—On 19th March, to John and Harry, a son, Henry.

PITT—On 19th March to Caroline and Michael, a son, Christopher, Nicholas, Niamh, 33, 36, a son, John.

POWELL—On 20th March, in Eltham, to Michael and Elizabeth, a daughter, Victoria, a sister for Elizabeth.

RODGER—On 21st March, at Wymondham Hospital, to Judy and Michael, a daughter, Sarah Louise.

RODGER—On 21st March, at Wymondham Hospital, to Judy and Michael, a son, Adam, 10, Henry.

STIRLING—On 19th March, to David and Peter, a son, Michael.

STRICKLAND—On 19th March, to Michael and Richard, a son, Michael.

SWOFFORD—On 19th March, to Anne and Ian, a son, Michael.

WRIGHT—On Sunday, 26 March, to John and Barbara, a son, Michael.

WRIGHT—On 21 March to Rosina and David, a son, Michael.

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